

**16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Vienna, 18 – 21 December 2017.**

**Statement by Norway on Compliance.**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Norway strongly condemns the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor. We are deeply concerned by reports of use of anti-personnel mines, including within the territory of States Parties to the Convention. We are also concerned with current use of improvised landmines in parts of the Middle East.

We call on all actors that continue to use anti-personnel mines to cease using these weapons and to take measures to protect civilians from the grave threat that they pose. We urge all States that have not yet joined the Convention to do so at the earliest opportunity and warmly welcome the news that Sri Lanka is acceding to the Convention as its 163<sup>rd</sup> State Party.

States Parties established the Committee on Cooperative Compliance at the Maputo Review Conference to address compliance challenges in a cooperative manner. We would like to commend the Committee for the way in which it has followed up on allegations of use of anti-personnel mines and have engaged in constructive dialogue with relevant States Parties. We further welcome that the Committee has actively consulted civil society in its work.

We thank the States Parties concerned that have engaged with the Committee in a transparent manner and welcome the steps taken by several of them to follow-up by investigating and verifying allegations of use.

We call on all relevant States to engage constructively with the Committee and to urgently follow up on allegations of use by conducting the necessary investigations; and, if necessary, by identifying those responsible and taking steps to ensure that the Convention is fully respected.