

AGENDA ITEM: ARTICLE 5 - ALGERIA



**Comments on Algeria's announcement
Intersessional Meeting of the Mine Ban Treaty
8 June 2017**

Thank you Mr Chair.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines offers its warmest congratulations to Algeria on the completion of its antipersonnel landmine clearance activities. The objective was achieved even before the extended deadline of April 2017.

Algeria has funded its mine action program through national sources exclusively in recent years, thus demonstrating remarkable national ownership over the issue. Algeria also shows continued leadership at the international level through its participation in the committees of the treaty.

Communities in formerly affected areas can now live without the constant threat of antipersonnel landmine explosions. But now that clearance is completed, let us not forget the thousands of landmine ^{victims} survivors in the country – they still have lifelong needs and they must see their rights fulfilled.

Should additional contamination be found in the future, Algeria would have to proceed promptly with clearance. If areas cannot be cleared before the next Meeting of States Parties, an extended deadline should be sought.

[*In Arabic:* Mr President -- Once again, congratulations to Algeria, to the Interministerial Committee, and to the humanitarian demining program for this important work. Thank you.]