



ICRC

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Statement on Article 5 Implementation

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 17th Meeting of States Parties

Geneva, 26-30 November 2018

Thank you Madam President,

At the outset, the ICRC congratulates Mauritania for having completed clearance of all mined areas in its territory, thus fulfilling its Article 5 obligations.

The ICRC appreciates the work done by the Committee on the background paper *Reflections and understandings on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations*. The ICRC welcomes that States are making efforts to clarify, among others, the issue of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The ICRC is concerned about the continued use of IEDs in armed conflicts and their humanitarian consequences. IEDs that are designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity or contact of a person are anti-personnel mines within the meaning of Article 2 of the Convention. In other words, improvised anti-personnel mines fall under the Convention and the Committee's mandate. The mere fact that a mine is improvised does not allow it to escape further scrutiny and follow-up by the Committee, nor from being reported under Article 7 of the Convention.

Madam President,

The Landmine Monitor 2018 report highlighted that only four out of the 31 mine-affected States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 obligations seem to be on track with their Convention-mandated deadlines. Twenty-one years after the Convention's adoption, and in the year leading up to the fourth Review Conference, this is an unsatisfactory level of implementation that calls for urgent, concerted action by affected States and States Parties and organisations in a position to assist them. Resources, both national and international, must be sustained and in some instances increased.

The ICRC, on its part, endeavours to mitigate the impact of contamination of landmines on the civilian population through a flexible and multidisciplinary approach, which includes a combination of information management, risk awareness and the promotion of safer behaviour, risk reduction, and survey and clearance. Currently the ICRC is working closely with national Red Cross Red Crescent societies, national and local authorities and demining actors to develop guidelines, build and reinforce capacity on risk awareness and safer behaviour in a number of contexts, such as Ukraine, Myanmar, Iraq and Colombia.

In conclusion, the ICRC urges all necessary measures to be taken to ensure that the deadlines set out in Article 5 and the extension request process be followed, with the aim of fulfilling the clearance goals set out in the Maputo Action Plan by 2025.

Thank you.