

Statement on Clearance
17th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
29 November 2018



Thank you Madam President.

We thank the Committee for its paper entitled “Reflections on the implementation and completion of Article 5 obligations.”

As we approach the Fourth Review Conference, the paper summarizes understandings adopted at previous MSPs and in previous Action Plans, and it recalls the States Parties’ interpretation of the clearance obligation.

It also puts forward two helpful and relevant recommendations, encouraging states to engage in a voluntary dialogue with the Committee and the ISU upon declaring completion of mine clearance. This is well-aligned with the spirit of cooperation and dialogue that prevails in this community.

Among other things, the paper also reiterates that, under Article 5, all mined areas must be cleared, whether or not they are difficult to reach and no matter what type of antipersonnel mines they contain, be they manufactured mines or improvised mines.

Madam President -- we are pleased to support this paper and we thank Switzerland for its leadership on the matter.

Thank you.