

ICBL Statement on Transparency (video transcript)
19th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, 15-19 November 2021

President and delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the important topic of Transparency. At least we feel it is important. It is not clear that some States Parties do.

For the third year in a row, a decreasing number of states have provided their annual Article 7 reports. This year marks the second lowest compliance rate (GIVE RATE) for Article 7 transparency reports to the treaty in the last decade.

The *majority* of States Parties to this convention are now delinquent in providing their required, annual Article 7 transparency reports.

Andorra! Brazil! Costa Rica! Dominica! Eswatini! If you are in the room, this statement is for you.

Ghana! Iceland! Luxembourg! Mexico! Paraguay! If you are participating online, this statement is for you!

Seychelles, Timor-Leste, and Uruguay! All of you I've just named and several others have something in common.

Besides being members of this remarkable international convention where all states have agreed to submit annual transparency reports, YOU have not provided an updated report to your fellow state parties!!

It might seem unfair to single you out among many other States Parties who are delinquent on their annual Article 7 transparency reports.

However, for the states I just mentioned, and for many other small states in the Caribbean or the Pacific, given that you are lucky enough not to suffer from landmine contamination, reporting is easy.

All you need to do is pick up this one sheet of paper (show), mark NO all the way down the page, and send it in! Done!

But, you say, why bother when we have nothing to report!! Because it establishes and reinforces the norm of transparency which is the basis for trust in this convention which aspires to end the suffering caused by antipersonnel landmines.

For states with few or no obligations, filing your transparency report is not an onerous or time-consuming task. Reflect for a moment on the difficulties of an Article 7 report for a country like Afghanistan. By the way, Afghanistan, WELL DONE on getting your complex and very complete Article 7 report in on time. This year and all years past. That is truly impressive given the hardships you've been, and are, experiencing.

But for all of you other states which haven't submitted yours yet, what difficulties do you face outside of inertia?

Albania, Cameroon, DRC, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia, Uganda, Venezuela! you unfortunately have situations such as clearance and/or victim assistance obligations which require communication with your fellow States Parties. Your overdue Article 7 report is the best, and required, way to do so.

You have 43 more days to do it this year. Thank you