

## **19th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, virtual conference, 14 - 19 November 2021.**

### **Statement by Norway (Senior Adviser Camilla Dannevig) on Article 5 extension requests – Eritrea.**

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I would first like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of this Meeting of States Parties, and extend Norway's sincere appreciation to the Netherlands and yourself, Mr President, for your hard work and able leadership in these exceptionally challenging times.

We had all looked forward to meeting in person in The Hague after nearly two years of virtual meetings. Alas, the pandemic has yet again frustrated our plans. We commend you for your quick and decisive action to transform the meeting into a virtual event once it became apparent that new sanitary restrictions were looming. You have our full support.

I am taking the floor to express Norway's deep concern regarding Eritrea's violation of its article 5 obligations. Despite years of outreach by consecutive office holders, states parties and the ISU, Eritrea has failed to request an extension of its article 5 deadline, which expired on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December last year. Eritrea has not submitted the required article 7 reports for years, and has skirted dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation despite numerous advances. The situation of non-compliance and the lack of meaningful dialogue hurts the credibility of the Convention.

We reiterate, yet again, our call on Eritrea to reestablish a cooperative dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation without delay, submit an extension request as soon as possible, and resume the article 7 reporting.

If the absence of meaningful contact between Eritrea and the Convention should continue, we should collectively consider further options, including seeking clarification and resolving questions relating to Eritrea's compliance through the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 8.2 of the Convention.

Thank you.