

Gender Focal Point(s)

Thank you very much Madam President

It's a pleasure for Spain to take the floor on behalf of the Gender Focal Points of the Committees.

Dear Participants, at the Fourth Review Conference in 2019, which took place in Oslo, there was increased attention placed on the importance of gender and taking the diverse needs of people in affected communities into account in our implementation efforts.

Gender and the Oslo Declaration

The Oslo Declaration adopted by the States Parties emphasizes the importance of:

- Taking practical steps to take into account the different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men as we implement the obligations of the Convention;
- It also reemphasized that integrating a gender perspective and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account in all aspects of mine action programming and Convention implementation is important to effectively protect all people from anti-personnel mines;
- In the Declaration the States Parties committed to strive to remove barriers to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings; and
- to ensuring the full, equal, and effective participation of mine survivors and victims in society, based on respect for human rights, gender equality, diverse needs, and non-discrimination.

In order to ensure that these are not just nice words on paper, the Fourth Review Conference decided that each Committee will appoint a gender focal point among its members to provide advice on gender mainstreaming and ensure that the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities are taken into account in the implementation of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan, within the different mandates of the Committee:

- France takes the lead on this matter in the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
- Italy takes the lead on this matter in the Committee on Victim Assistance
- Thailand takes the lead on this matter in the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
- And Spain takes the lead on this matter in the Committee on Cooperative Compliance.

In fulfilling our mandates as gender focal points our aim is to encourage your reporting effort to take matters related to gender and diversity into account and closely review the information submitted by States Parties in their Article 7 Reports on relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan, giving particular attention to your reporting on efforts to:

- removing barriers to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings **(Action 3)**;
- consideration of the needs of mine survivors and affected communities and ensure their meaningful participation in all Convention related matters **(Action 4)**;
- ensuring that States Parties implementing commitments under Article 5 report on efforts to ensure that mine risk education and risk reduction activities are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account **(Action 29)**;
- ensure that States Parties report on Mine Risk Education results, with information disaggregated by gender and age **(Action 32)**;
- ensure that States Parties implementing victim assistance activities report on efforts to ensure that they are inclusive of gender, age and disability and takes diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes **(Action 33)**;
- ensure collection of data disaggregated by gender, age and disability **(Action 35)**;
- In terms of cooperation and assistance, the Oslo Action Plan also calls on States Parties in a position to provide support the implementation of clear, evidence based national strategies and work plans that respond to the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities and are built on sound gender, age and disability analysis **(Action 45)**
- The Oslo Action Plan also encourages the sharing experience of integrating gender and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account into programming **(Action 47)**

As you can see, everyone has a role to play:

- Affected States should incorporate these understanding into their programming and reporting; for example:
 - o If you are carrying out survey and clearance operations how do you ensure that gender and diversity is considered in your planning structure, priority your staffing and the execution of your work and in the handover of land?

- States Parties in a position to provide assistance should report on their efforts to support programs that incorporate these understandings and should promote them; How do you ensure that your projects support the aim of gender and diversity?
- States Participating in meetings should consider the composition of their delegations when registering to attend the Convention meetings;
- States should consider sharing best practices in this regard.

While consideration of gender and the diverse needs of mine affected communities may be an integral part of your State's planning processes (e.g. through your priority setting), reporting on this is not something that States typically are accustomed to reporting prior to the adoption of the Oslo Action Plan.

We would welcome increased reporting in this regard. It is critical that we exchange best practices and lessons learned. The Article 7 Reports are an important avenue to do so.

At the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties we updated the baseline of reporting on gender matters which was established at the 18MSP, based on the Oslo Action Plan indicators. The status of implementation presented a number of areas for improvement from all of us.

In the lead up to the Intersessional Meeting we will be drawing observations on the information submitted by all of you in this regard. We may also come back to you with request to complement certain information provide by your State.

As other committees mentioned, it would also be welcome if you would submit information on the challenges and any relevant information concerning your efforts to implement the gender and diversity commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.

Based on the information provided by your States we may identify a thematic issue which is of interest to many States and continue our conversation during the intersessional meetings.

It is important that every step we take in implementation considered gender and diversity.

Should you have any questions on how best to report in this regard in your Article 7 Report, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. There are a number of important resources that you may want to access in this regard such as United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes and others. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Committee or the ISU. We look forward to supporting your efforts.