

ICBL statement on Compliance

Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Meetings, 19-21 June 2023, Geneva

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The ICBL appreciates and welcomes the statement just made by Ukraine indicating that it will carry out an inquiry into possible use of antipersonnel mines by Ukrainian forces.

However, evidence of such use is already clear and compelling. And new evidence continues to be uncovered.

What is needed is a prompt and thorough investigation and holding those responsible to account. Transparency and accountability are absolutely crucial.

Ukraine should ensure control over all of its stocks and should reassure States Parties by strongly stating that it will never use antipersonnel mines.

Turning now to the other extremely disturbing case of non-compliance.

Eritrea is in violation of the Treaty by virtue of its failure to meet its clearance deadline of 31 March 2020, failure to submit an extension request so far, failure to undertake any clearance operations since 2013, and failure to submit a transparency report since 2014.

There has been a prolonged and extensive outreach vis-à-vis Eritrea carried out since 2019 which has not brought Eritrea back into compliance, nor established a cooperative dialog with Eritrea, so far. We regret Eritrea is absent at the meeting this week. We support the invocation of Article 8 to address this matter to preserve the integrity and credibility of the convention. That would entail utilizing the offices of the UN Secretary-General and preparing for a fact-finding mission, if necessary.

Ukraine and Eritrea aside, there are other serious compliance concerns, as States Parties recognized in the Oslo Action Plan. In light of time constraints, I will only take note of some of these.

Greece and Ukraine are in violation of the Treaty for having missed their stockpile destruction deadlines long ago. They have made little progress in recent years and neither has identified a completion date. We look forward to hear their updates later today.

There are compliance concerns with respect to Article 3 on mines inappropriately retained for training and research, Article 5 on delayed action or non-action on mine clearance, Article 7 on the low rate of transparency reporting, and Article 9 on lack of national implementation measures.

As the President noted on Monday, the norm against antipersonnel mines must also be protected. Russia is making a mockery of the norm, using antipersonnel mines and booby-traps on a scale unseen for many years. The government forces of Myanmar are continuing to use antipersonnel mines, keeping up a more than two-decade record. All States Parties should condemn these and all instances of use by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances.

These various compliance concerns are not new. They are long-standing, and States Parties must continue to develop new approaches to deal with them. The key will be dedicated and sustained

attention from the President, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, and all States Parties to address these concerns effectively.

Lastly, let me thank the President and the Committee for all their hard work.

Thank you.