

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Fifth Review Conference, Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024

Compliance

Statement by Austria

Mr. President,

The Mine Ban Treaty is a milestone instrument bringing together disarmament, international humanitarian law and international human rights law with the objective to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines through the prohibition of development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of anti-personnel mines. It requires States Parties to destroy existing stocks of anti-personnel mines, clear mined areas and assist victims. The Treaty doesn't permit reservations to the application of any of its provisions.

We thank the Committee on Compliance for their work over the past year and for their report presented to this Review Conference, which thoroughly examines the status of compliance of States Parties with all provisions of our Treaty. To ensure the integrity and strength of our Convention, all States Parties must comply with their obligations at all times.

We reiterate that we condemn in the strongest terms any use of anti-personnel mines by any actor under any circumstances and we have addressed this already in our universalisation statement in detail. We equally urge compliance with all other obligations of the Convention. We are concerned about the lack of progress in achieving the destruction of all stockpiles and the amount of mines retained for training purposes reflected in the report by the Committee. We urge all concerned States Parties to implement their clearance obligations and, if needed, to submit comprehensive extension requests in a timely manner and with a clear work plan. The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan to be adopted will serve well to guide this work.

The strong norms of the prohibition of development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of anti-personnel mines go well beyond the realm of this Convention and we reiterate as already laid out by my delegation that we urge

States not yet Party to the Convention to respect the strong norms established by the Convention in line with their international legal obligations. Anti-personnel mines are prohibited without exception because they are inhuman and inherently indiscriminate weapons.

National ownership and investing in strong partnerships seems key to ensure that the needs in clearance and victim assistance obligations are met with the necessary domestic and international resources. We support the establishment of a Fund to help States Parties finish the job of clearance and we have in our statements on clearance and victim assistance supported a range of other mechanisms and innovative approaches that could well reinforce the strengthening of compliance with these obligations.

In closing, Mr. President, my delegation reiterates the need in light of current developments and unprecedented challenges to step up our collective efforts to clearly defend and reinforce the obligations of our Convention and the strong norms it has brought along to prevent further harm from anti-personnel mines and to end the casualties and suffering from these inhuman weapons for all times.

I thank you.