

## Measures to ensure compliance

### Opening remarks by keynote speaker Norway

Mr. President,

I am honored to provide opening remarks for this agenda item. Norway has served on the Committee on Cooperative Compliance for the past two years along with the Presidency Cambodia, Peru, Germany and South Africa. Our purpose is explicitly to “assist states parties in acting upon their commitments of this convention”.., and “to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance in a supportive and amicable manner”.

It is the mandate of this committee to consider whether a concern about compliance with the convention prohibitions is potentially credible, to clarify the situation in close consultation with the states parties concerned, and if it assesses that the concern is credible, to make suggestions on steps that the states parties concerned could take to make sure the convention remains strong and effective.

At review conferences, we look ahead and we also take stock of what has been achieved. Mostly we talk about these achievements in very practical terms. We talk about numbers, of square kilometers, of fields and hillsides and assistance to survivors. We tend to talk less about the norms that have been established by this convention. But they are as important.

Let us remind ourselves what we have committed to. Because as time has passed, some aspects may have become lost in translation. The opening article of the convention says that “..each states party undertakes to never under any circumstances use anti personnel mines, to develop, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer to anyone, directly and indirectly, antipersonnel mines” .. but also (again: never under any circumstances)..” to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a state party under this convention”.

Mr President,

This convention is not only very clear in its language, it is also legally binding. That makes it an integral part of international humanitarian law. The rules of international humanitarian law are currently being violated in many parts of the world, in ongoing armed conflicts. This does not mean that they are no longer relevant. On the contrary. It is exactly in armed conflict that they are relevant. That is why they were developed. Because it matters how wars are fought.

So Norway is concerned. Let me share some of our concerns. We are gravely concerned about the new use of anti-personnel landmines in recent years, especially the massive and sustained use by Russia in their illegal and extremely brutal war against Ukraine. Norway has consistently condemned the unprovoked and full-scale invasion. We are also very concerned about the recent announcement of transfers of anti-personnel landmines to a state party to the convention. This would create an unprecedented situation. And we are extremely concerned about the potential erosion of the norms established by this convention.

This convention is often described as one of the most successful global disarmament treaties. Its provisions have saved countless lives and prevented human suffering. Let us be clear. This is a ban treaty. It does not regulate the use of certain weapons. It bans any use. There is only one standard. Any mines or explosive devices that are designed to be detonated by a person fall under this Convention and are banned. It does not matter how they are produced, or why they are used. And it does not matter whether they are smart - or maybe not so smart after all.

Thank you.

