



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
(28 November – 1 December 2016)

Statement on Transparency and Exchange of Information

Santiago, 1 December 2016

Mr. President,¹

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities involved in mine action.²

The United Nations welcomes the updated version of the Guide to Reporting, adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties. It is designed to assist States Parties in the fulfilment of their reporting obligations under Article 7 of the Convention in a timely and effective manner.

For example, in South Sudan, UNMAS has continued to support the National Mine Action Authority of the Government of Sudan's reporting, through the provision of collected data, maps, and consultations with relevant Mine Action actors.

Despite the slight improvement witnessed in Article 7 reporting, whereby a 7 per cent increase from the previous year is noted, the United Nations considers that more must be done and strongly urges States Parties to comply with their reporting obligations. Without the Article 7 Reports, progress cannot be discerned and vital information sharing

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² The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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cannot be conducted. Indeed, the United Nations regrets that in 2016 over half³ of the States Parties failed to comply with their Article 7 reporting obligations. As this Convention is an instrument of international law, compliance is not voluntary. It is an international legal obligation that States Parties must comply with annually and punctually.

Moreover, these reports give an overview of the needs of the States Parties. Without this information, assistance will be difficult to procure and provide. The simplified reporting forms available and the assistance offered by the ISU and the United Nations support the States Parties in their striving towards upholding the integrity of the Convention.

Without reporting, transparency is also seriously tarnished. This is why transparency requirements should not only be seen as a legal binding obligation, but also as a confidence-building measure between States Parties to enable the promise of a world safe and free of mine by 2025.

Thank you.

³ In 2016, 88 out of 162 States Parties failed to comply with their Article 7 reporting obligations.