



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Geneva, 25 June 2015

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva Office, UNMAS

Mr. President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹, comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

The United Nations is grateful for your report on the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.

Article 5 completion has become one of the biggest challenges for the Convention. Of the 59 States Parties that have reported mined areas since the entry into force of the APMBC, less than half fulfilled their obligations under this Article. Therefore, 31 States Parties have yet to fulfil this legal requirement, of which 26 have requested and been granted an extension to their deadlines for clearing mined areas.²

It is unfortunate that last year, only Burundi was able to declare completion of its Article 5 obligations. It is hoped that Mozambique will be added to this list before the end of the year. The credibility of the Treaty hinges on a timelier pace of declarations of completion and the United Nations looks to ways in which it can contribute to accelerate this process.

This is not an endeavor that many States Parties can complete alone. Although real progress is being made towards clearance and release of contaminated land and infrastructure, an estimated half of identified hazardous areas in countries and territories with a United Nations mine action presence have not been cleared or released yet.³ The United Nations accompanies most of those 26 States Parties in trying to meet their

¹ 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).

³ Data and analysis from the Mechanism for Monitoring and Evaluation for "The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018."



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extended deadlines. The task is not easy and in many instances it could not be done without international cooperation and assistance.

For example, Afghanistan, historically the most mine-affected country, has been granted a ten-year extension of its Article 5 deadline. As part of the Afghan extension request, mine action in-country stakeholders established a detailed work plan for the completion of clearance operations, but due to funding shortfalls, targets have not been met, thus putting the whole work plan at risk.

Thank you.