



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

13th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on Transparency and the Exchange of Information

Agenda item 11 (f)

Geneva, 5 December 2013

Delivered by UNMAS

on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)

I deliver the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprised of the United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

Article 7 transparency reporting is not only a crucial obligation of the Convention, it is an important way for States Parties to communicate their achievements as well as the challenges they are facing.

Timely and detailed reporting identifies the work that remains to be done, and highlights needs that those states in a position to do so and willing to support affected states can incorporate in their planning and resource allocation. As such, a clear and detailed transparency report may become a very useful tool to facilitate cooperation and assistance in and among states.

The IACG-MA would like to thank the two States not yet parties (Morocco and the State of Palestine) which have submitted voluntary transparency reports and urge all States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention that have not yet submitted their reports to be compliant with this obligation as soon as possible. This year only 46% of States Parties submitted reports. This is alarming and corresponds to the lowest compliance rate since the Convention's entry into force in 1999.

The IACG-MA encourages all States Parties to submit detailed and well-substantiated reports in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner. We remain committed to assist States Parties in fulfilling their responsibility to report under Article 7, and to support states not yet parties that would like to submit transparency reports on a voluntary basis.

Among others, the Mine Action Service has supported Côte Ivoire in the submission of its 2012 transparency report; South Sudan with its first ever transparency report in 2012; and currently supports the State of Palestine's efforts to submit a voluntary Article 7 transparency reports for the second year.

Transparency and accountability are principles of highest importance to the United Nations, as the Secretary-General pointed out in his recent report on assistance in mine action (A/68/305). These are also reflected in the United Nations monitoring and evaluation mechanism being developed to accompany the implementation of the Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018.

Finally, the IACG-MA would like to thank Belgium for its tireless efforts in encouraging states to fulfil this obligation.

Thank you.