

2. Operation and status of the Convention

c. Art 5 Implementation

We thank the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for its thorough report and preliminary observations. In particular, we found the information provided about the degree of implementation by individual States Parties very useful.

Clearing mine affected areas is a core obligation of States Parties under the Convention and essential to achieving its humanitarian objectives.

In the Maputo Action Plan, affected States Parties commit to “quantifying and qualifying their remaining implementation challenges as soon as possible” and to incorporate this information into national demining plans, as well as into relevant development and reconstruction plans.

We take note of the Committee’s observation that there is still insufficient clarity in many States Parties on remaining challenges. We also note that only a few out of the 31 States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5 have reported to have a plan in place to complete implementation.

We think, quite frankly, that it will be difficult for many donors to raise or to sustain funding for mine action in States where the extent of contamination remains undefined, or where national plans are either not in place or are not being followed up.

Affected states should make full use of existing methods and best practices to accurately identify mined areas and to release land where there is no evidence of contamination.

We urge all affected States Parties that have not yet done so to submit updated information on their Article 5 implementation as soon as possible.

Norway remains committed to fulfilling its Article 6 obligation and will continue to support surveys activities and mine clearance in affected States. We are currently supporting efforts in 20 countries, and we will continue to give priority to countries that demonstrate strong national ownership of this effort.