

e. Cooperative Compliance

We thank the Committee on Cooperative Compliance for its report and preliminary observations. We welcome the way in which the Committee is following up on alleged use of anti-personnel mines and engaging with relevant States Parties.

We are deeply concerned by reports of use of anti-personnel mines, including within the territory of States Parties to the Convention, and strongly condemn any new use of anti-personnel mines by any actor. We call on relevant States to urgently follow up on such reports to clarify the situation; to conduct the necessary investigations; and, if necessary, take steps to ensure that the convention is fully respected.

When we are discussing compliance issues, it is our view that this discussion should not be limited to violations of the ban on using anti-personnel mines, but should also address the lack of implementation of other obligations of States Parties to the Convention. This includes the obligation to destroy stockpiles under Article 4 and to clear all mined areas under Article 5.

While we realize that this goes beyond the strict mandate of the Committee, we are concerned by the longstanding difficulties of several States Parties to comply with their Article 4 obligations. We are further concerned that one State Party has not completed its clearance obligation under Article 5 within its 10-year deadline - without having been granted an extension.

Finally, we take this opportunity to say that we are distressed by the growing threat posed by mines and explosive remnants of war in several on-going armed conflicts. This threat exacerbates the already very difficult humanitarian situation facing the civilian population in these conflict areas.