



Mr. Co-chairs

We would like to thank Belgium and New Zealand for their leadership as co-chairs of this session as well as for their diligence in addressing the issue of compliance.

At the outset, my delegation would like to emphasise that we are taking the floor under the agenda item of compliance today because we are convinced that the credibility of the Convention largely depends on the way how we deal collectively with issues of non-compliance.

We can witness today that the Convention had and still has a crucial impact in addressing the challenge of anti-personnel mines. It has been largely acknowledged that these indiscriminate weapons shall not be used because of their disastrous humanitarian impact. This consideration is furthermore reinforced by the fact that they have lost their military value and have severe consequences for all parties to a conflict long after it has ended.

It is for this reason that we are concerned about allegations that antipersonnel mines have been recently used in countries not party to the Convention. If these allegations are confirmed, we cannot but condemn these acts, a condemnation that extends to the use of anti-personnel mines by any party to a conflict, including armed groups.

We are even more concerned by different allegations of use of anti-personnel landmines by States Parties to the Convention. We urge that the States concerned by these allegations provide the necessary information to all States Parties based on thorough investigations. Furthermore, it would be important that States Parties are briefed about the legal and other measures taken by the concerned States Parties.

We remain deeply concerned about the situation in Yemen. At the same time, we would like to commend Yemen on its reporting since the last Meeting of States Parties and for the declaration delivered today. Although important questions remain, we particularly welcome

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the fact that transparent information has been provided to all States Parties. We would like to encourage Yemen to address all outstanding issues as swiftly as possible and report on action taken according to decisions taken at the last MSP.

We would like to reiterate our conviction that the credibility and sustainability of the Convention depends strongly on the way how we deal collectively with questions of compliance. This is certainly an element that will have to be borne in mind as we work towards the Maputo Review Conference. In view of the importance of the compliance issue for the well-being of the Convention, giving due consideration at the Review Conference to mechanisms that would enable us to address non-compliance cases in a cooperative manner would be important.