

**Intersessional meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Geneva,
22 - 24 May 2018.**

Statement by Norway on Implementation of Article 5.

We thank the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for the conclusions and recommendations presented.

It is a priority for Norway's presidency to push the pace of clearance of land mines to protect human life and limbs, and to promote social and economic development.

We have been guided for the past five years by our common aim of a mine-free world by 2025 as expressed by the Maputo Declaration. We recognize that challenges to reaching this goal remain. It is our hope and intention that the Action Plan and declaration to be adopted in Oslo in November should help us make a strong push to finish the job in as many countries as possible, and as early as possible. The goal of a mine-free world by 2025 remains an important mobilizing force and rallying cry for us all.

Over the last few years we have seen an increase in the use of improvised landmines, mainly by non-state armed groups. This has resulted in an increased number of civilian casualties. This situation urgently needs to be addressed, through risk education for local communities, IDPs and refugees, - and more importantly, by removing the threat of anti-personnel mines and other explosives from the ground.

Homemade or improvised mines are not a *new* concept. We have been clearing them for years. What is new, is the *scale* and *magnitude* of the problem. As supporters of the Mine Ban Treaty, we must ensure that improvised mines are included in data collection and national reports from affected countries and cleared in accordance with Article 5.

The challenges related to *new* use by improvised landmines have increased global political attention and funding for mine action. This is necessary and welcome. We encourage more countries to become donors for global mine action. At the same time, we encourage donors to maintain clearance of *legacy* contamination - which continues to burden the majority of affected countries.

Thank you.