

Norwegian statement on compliance
Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
24 June 2011

Thank you, Chair.

The Mine Ban Convention's prohibition against use of anti-personnel mines is now an established international norm, adhered to also by almost all states not party. When it comes to the use of mines, our greatest concern today is therefore the conduct of armed non-state actors, in addition to that small handful of states which in recent years allegedly have used anti-personnel mines.

Actions 1 – 6 in the Cartagena Action Plan relate to the universalisation of the Convention and its norms, both among other states and as it concerns armed non-state actors. It should therefore be of concern to all States Parties that there have been several allegations of use over the past couple of years, both by armed non-state actors in states that are party to the Convention, by states that have not yet joined the Convention, and even by States Parties. Such allegations must be followed up, investigated and condemned if confirmed; and criminal acts must be met with the proper response from the state, in a transparent manner. An example in case is the recent reports of use of mines by non-state actors in Sudan.

It is our common responsibility to protect and promote the norm established by the Mine Ban Convention. We must all react strongly to acts that threaten this norm in order to uphold the stigmatisation of anti-personnel mines. We must emphasise that the use of a weapon that causes unacceptable harm to civilians does not belong in modern warfare. And we must actively support efforts by organisations such as Geneva Call who work specifically with norm-building among armed non-state groups so that these groups commit to not using anti-personnel mines.

The humanitarian objectives of the Convention must be our focus, both by working to *prevent* the use of mines by any actor, and by *reacting strongly* to any allegations of non-compliance or any threat against the norm established by the Mine Ban Convention.

Thank you.