



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention
(Co-Chairs: Norway and Peru)
Geneva, 21 and 25 May 2012**

Intervention

**Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

Thank you Mister/Madam Co-Chair,

I deliver the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA, comprising the 14 United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

This statement reflects United Nations activities and initiatives of relevance to the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention since the 11th Meeting of States Parties.

Overview of the general status of Universalization

The United Nations reaffirms the views of States Parties and continues to use all possible opportunities to promote the universalization of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. In his message on the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April), the Secretary-General called for universal adherence to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention, as well as to the CCM, CCW Protocol V and CRPD, in addition to highlighting the need for increased support for mine action. As a means to further highlight mine action and to support universalization, the Secretary-General along with senior officials of the United Nations system joined a worldwide advocacy campaign in 2012 involving the ICBL and others asking all to “Lend your Leg”.

Recent reports of the use of antipersonnel mine underscore the need to redouble international efforts to achieve a mine free world. The United Nations also acknowledge that there are still mine-affected countries that have not yet become States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention. We would strongly encourage and support their efforts to be bound by the Convention as soon as possible.

Three states have acceded to the Convention since the last Intersessionals¹. We hope others will follow this trend in the coming months. We commend the efforts of the

¹ South Sudan, Tuvalu and Finland

Presidency and also of Prince Mired of Jordan as Special Envoy for the Universalization of the Convention.

The United Nations acknowledges the fact that landmines are also a threat when used and/or possessed by Non-State Actors (NSA). Therefore, the United Nations continues to support efforts aimed at eliciting commitments by NSA to a mine ban and to mine action, including notably the work done by the Geneva Call.

Transparency and the exchange of information

While recognizing fully the responsibility of States Parties in the regular and timely submission of Article 7 reports, we use this opportunity to reiterate the readiness of the United Nations to assist states parties in the preparation of their national reports. During this period, UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS, in the course of delivering their support to mine action, have provided this kind of assistance to a number of States Parties.

Transparency reporting is not only a treaty obligation for affected States Parties but also serves as a tool for planning, prioritizing and measuring progress of mine action operations and activities of a programme. The United Nations supports efforts to ensure the highest quality of these reports. To this end, the United Nation mine action partners addressed the issue of transparency reporting as one of the main focus of one of the sessions at the 15th International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisors, held here in Geneva on March this year.

Particularly important is to ensure adequate reporting on information regarding progress in the implementation of Article 5 obligations.

UNODA continues to update the database of Article 7 reports with the submissions by States Parties or other states on a voluntary basis.

Once again we thank Belgium, in its capacity of Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group, for its efforts in promoting enhanced compliance and quality of reporting.

Article 3: Updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training of mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques

(Note: no suggested language under this section)

Compliance

(Note: no suggested language under this section)

Implementation Support Unit

The United Nations mine action members continue to appreciate their collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit on matters pertaining to the implementation of the

Convention. The United Nations also welcomes the participation of the ISU in the meetings of the Global Protection Cluster mine action area of responsibility (AoR), coordinated by UNMAS.

Article 9: The development and adoption of legislative, administrative and other measurespractical implementation of the various other provisions

UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF continued to assist some States Parties in the preparation of national legislation on mine action. Legislation that fully reflects the obligations under the Treaty is vital and there are many models from other States Parties that can provide guidance.

Preparation for the 12MSP

(Note: no suggested language under this section)

Meeting of the States Parties: organization and functioning

(Note: no suggested language under this section)

Updates on othe implementation mechanisms

(Note: no suggested language under this section)

The practical implementation of the various other provisions of the Convention

(Note: no suggested language under this section)

Thank you.