

## **MBC Intersessional meetings 2012. Norwegian Statement on Compliance**

Thank you M. Chair

Norway is concerned by reports and allegations of use of antipersonnel mines during the last year. The Mine Ban Convention has established a norm which has led to the vast majority of countries, including countries that are not States Parties, refraining from using antipersonnel mines. This is due to the civilian suffering they cause, both during a conflict and long after hostilities have ceased. Use of antipersonnel mines is therefore never acceptable under any circumstances. It is worrying to hear that countries continue to use antipersonnel mines and as States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention it is important that we continue to condemn use of antipersonnel mines and remind the world of the terrible consequences such use has.

With regard to allegations that States Parties have used antipersonnel mines, we hope that this will be clarified by the States Parties in question as soon as possible. The verification system of our Convention is that states themselves respond to such allegations, show transparency and cooperation, and if use has occurred, investigate who is responsible and hold them accountable according to applicable national legislation.

Thank you.