



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Meetings of the Standing Committees 21-25 May 2012

Discovery of mined areas after the expiry of Article 5 deadlines

Geneva, 22 May 2012

Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

We find it of utmost importance for the credibility of the Convention that a rational response to the issue is found, which

- is sustainable;
- is based on the existing text contained in article 5 of the Convention;
- is in line with the agreed practice and customs in regard to compliance issues with Article 5;
- ensures the equal treatment of all States Parties;
- and which ensures a clearance of these areas as soon as possible.

Switzerland understands the principle “mutatis mutandis” as a way to apply article 5 to the maximum extent possible, also to cases which were not foreseen verbatim by the Convention.

A 12 MSP decision may specify the appropriate procedure to deal with such cases.

We would suggest aiming for a solution which provides us with maximum clarity. The Co-Chairs have been working hard together with relevant actors to develop such a solution. In our view, the draft decision circulated by the Presidency seems to be an excellent basis for further discussions.

We would also like to commend Canada for its proposal and we are ready to look into it.

The following points seem particularly important:

- Transparency, communication and pragmatism are crucial in such exceptional cases. This allows for confidence and legitimacy of the processes agreed under the convention.
- In regard to deadlines, we would opt for a wording, which does not deviate from article 5. It appears that with the application of the agreed standards and customs in regard to “demining as soon as possible” and “requests only for the time necessary”, we have established sufficient safeguards.

Thank you very much.