



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

States Parties currently implementing Article 5 obligations

Geneva, 22 May 2012

Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Switzerland would like to thank States Parties implementing article 5 for their updates. We commend the considerable progress made in discharging the obligations under article 5 of the convention.

We would like to recall that the credibility of the Convention largely depends on the full implementation of article 5. The way we are dealing with remaining article 5 obligations have a direct impact on peoples' lives.

As we have also highlighted in other fora, accurate surveys are crucial: their results may decide over the allocation of resources for clearance programmes. Incoherent or biased surveys may therefore lead to under- or overestimation of the problem and result in a wrong allocation of resources.

Furthermore, Switzerland has identified gender mainstreaming as one of the guiding principles in its mine action and is implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 by way of a national action plan. Therefore, we stress the particular importance of sex and gender disaggregated data collection in surveys and of gender sensitive approaches to surveys and clearance.

Another important factor refers to the financial predictability for clearance programmes: long-term commitments over a time period of for example 3 to 5 years enable a better planning of resources and avoid volatile shifts in funding. However, we are aware that this demands commitments that have to withstand also changes of priorities within donor states.

And finally, a programme management “up to the last mile” seems essential to us, too. A joint planning of programmes by local authorities and international actors including the definition of concrete milestones, criteria to be fulfilled, the phasing-out of the experts’ work and the final hand-over have proven to be a successful approach. Such an approach also allows a predictable and well-planned shift of capacities from international experts to local experts and authorities.

In this context, of course, the relevance of accurate and detailed reporting on both achievements and remaining challenges cannot be overestimated, and we can only echo in support the call from our Belgian colleagues as well as from UNMAT, ICRC, and ICBL to provide accurate and detailed information on time through the reporting formats and through regular updates during meetings.

States parties that are not affected bear additional responsibilities: although our resources are scarce, support and assistance is needed more than ever before. The efficient and effective use of international assistance has to be coupled with increased national ownership and co-ordination to allow for maximum impact.

Thank you very much.