

**ICBL Comments on Other States Parties Implementing Article 5  
MBT Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings  
Standing Committee on Mine Clearance  
23 May 2012**



At this stage of the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, we should expect that there would be considerably less states needing to request extensions as they apply lessons learned over the years on efficient mine clearance. But we still would like States Parties to consider realistically how much time they will need to complete Article 5 obligations and, if needed, seek additional time. We do not want to have to face any more missed deadlines.

**Burundi:** Burundi previously reported that it finished its Article 5 obligations, but today seemed to imply that it still had AP mine contamination. Could you please clarify this?

**Sudan:** With ongoing UXO contamination and possible new AP mine use, we strongly encourage Sudan to allow access to international demining organizations in *all* areas of Sudan so that they can continue to conduct the essential clearance work that they had been planning to do. We would also like to request Sudan to present a clear and detailed clearance plan.

**Turkey:** We still need clarity on the size of the contaminated areas in *all* areas under Turkey's jurisdiction or control. We hope Turkey will put a high priority on clearance of areas outside of the border minefields since these are areas that continue to cause civilian casualties.

**Ethiopia:** We are a bit concerned to hear about the transfer of authority for the mine action program to the Ministry of Defense. We hope that this will not prevent Ethiopia from having the same high levels of productivity as before.

**Iraq:** We are concerned that three years after becoming a State Party, the centre and south still lack a functioning institutional framework for managing mine action, accrediting operators, planning and prioritizing clearance, upholding international standards, and reporting and managing data.

Thanks to **Germany, Hungary, and Niger** for their transparency on mined areas discovered or reported after their deadline expired. We all regret the late discovery of such areas. As we discussed previously, since such instances are not dealt with by the Mine Ban Treaty, we encourage them to use whatever new system is developed at the 12MSP. But it would be even better if they were able to finish clearance quickly so there would be no need to ask for a new or extended deadline.