

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation
27 May 2013

Exchange of views on Compliance

Contribution by Austria

We thank the Co-Chairs and commend them for their efforts to follow up and engage with States Parties facing allegations of non-compliance with the Convention.

Austria is deeply concerned about recent reports on use allegations concerning States Parties of the Convention. These States Parties are expected to demonstrate responsibility and in the spirit of transparency and cooperation provide States Parties with information clarifying the allegations concerning non-compliance with the Convention at the earliest possible. We thank those delegation that today have provided further information in this regard. Austria looks forward to hearing from the concerned states as soon as possible about the outcome of their investigations into allegations that haven't been clarified yet.

Should use have occurred, the responsables must be held accountable under applicable national law. Further, the state concerned is called on to provide comprehensive assistance to persons who have fallen victims of these inhuman weapons as well as their families and affected communities, to urgently proceed with the clearance of contaminated land in order to avoid further casualties and to assure that these illegal weapons are never been used again.

The use of anti-personnel mines by a states party would be considered the most alarming breach of the obligations of this Convention and a new casualty resulting from such use would be the most painful evidence of a breach of the Convention's objective to end all suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

We underline the spirit of trust and cooperation guiding the implementation of this Treaty and recall that the community of States Parties stands ready to assist States Parties in any way they may require.

Thank you.