

ICBL Intervention on Article 9
Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings
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Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.

We will be brief, just like this morning's discussion on Article 9. It is, in fact, this brevity – or at least the small number of interventions by States Parties with remaining Article 9 obligations – that we want to comment on today. We recognize and thank Argentina, Chile, and the Philippines for being the exceptions and providing an update on their progress and to Germany for reminding us of national measures already adopted. We also thank the ICRC for its excellent presentation on how States Parties should go about implementation of Article 9.

As noted by the co-chairs and the ICRC, implementation of this article is critical because it is the main way States Parties can guarantee the treaty's respect within its borders or by its citizens elsewhere. And yet still only around 50% of States Parties have implemented it. As well, in recent years we have heard very little from these remaining states – either at Standing Committee meetings, Meetings of the States Parties, or in their Article 7 reports, where info, when occasionally provided, is quite vague.

Because of the importance that the ICBL attaches to progress on this article, and because of the inadequate reporting happening elsewhere, we have begun a series of meetings with States Parties' representatives in Geneva to seek updates on the status of the development of national implementation measures in an informal environment. We thank the ICRC for providing legal expertise to these meetings. We started with a small meeting in March and will continue to invite all States Parties that have not yet implemented Article 9 to participate in future meetings.

We hope that the meetings will encourage more reporting on progress in the future but more importantly, will remind States Parties of the urgent need to take action on this article and will trigger quick movement towards adoption of national legal, administrative, and other measures, including penal sanctions.

Thank you.