

**Notes for ICRC Intervention under the agenda item "Updates from other relevant States Parties on the status of implementation of Article 5"**

**Standing Committee on Mine Clearance  
Geneva, Thursday 28 May 2009**

Thank you Madame Co-Chair.

On behalf of the ICRC, let me first thank all States Parties that have taken the floor yesterday and today to provide updates on their progress and plans. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tunisia on having completed its obligations under Article 5 as announced yesterday. We were also pleased to hear from several other States Parties yesterday that expect to complete mine clearance by the Second Review Conference, as well as from a number of States Parties that have indicated today that they expect to fulfil their Article 5 obligations within their deadlines.

We have two brief observations that we would like to share with regard to the presentations we have heard.

We have noted that the lack of adequate resources, whether in the form of financial resources, expertise or equipment, is the circumstance most frequently cited by mine-affected States Parties as an impediment to fulfilling their Article 5 obligations. We urge donor countries to continue to provide such support until clearance obligations have been completed. We also encourage mine-affected States Parties to ensure that mine clearance remains a national priority and to make efforts to identify additional support for completing their obligations. As already stated yesterday, we believe the Review Conference must address the current disparity between needs and resources as a key priority.

We have also noted that some States Parties have indicated that explosive remnants of war (ERW) will continue to pose a threat to the civilian population after they have completed the clearance of anti-personnel mines and fulfilled their Article 5 obligations. With respect to such situations, we would like to highlight the importance of ensuring continued support for efforts to address the humanitarian consequences of ERW, both on the part of affected States and of donor States in a position to provide assistance.

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