

Eritrea's Delegation Clarification Statement in the agenda item of Transparency and Exchange of Information on the 10th Meeting of States Parties December 3, 2010

Mr. President,
Honorable delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen

Firstly, on behalf of the Eritrean government, I wish to congratulate you for being elected as the president to this 10th meeting of the states parties for the antipersonnel mine ban convention. I also wish to express my appreciation to your predecessor ambassador Susan Eckey as well for her smart handling in the proceedings of the convention agendas during her chair period in the previous year.

Mr. President,
My request for this opportunity is not to make an already intended and prepared general statement which has been repeatedly detailed by my delegation in the previous many occasions. But now it is simply to give brief clarification for that which the ICBL raised Eritrea with states that have missed their obligation in the issue of Transparency and exchange of Information.

Mr. president
In compliance to the convention, my government remains committed to carry out landmine clearance and destructions so that to end up the suffering of people caused by the impacts of Landmines and UXOs. Despite the absence of the external support for demining operations, Eritrea is dedicatedly striving to get rid of the landmine and UXO scourges. Since 2001 until June 2010 Standing Committee Meeting, we have reported that all in all, the operational progress of mine clearance and destruction conducted in Eritrea was **10,258 AP** landmines, **997AT** landmines and **68,890 UXOs**.

Regarding stockpile destruction, we have repeatedly indicated it in our annual article seven transparent reports that Eritrea does not produce nor posses any stockpile of antipersonnel mines. All the mines recovered during the struggle for liberation and during the border conflict war were laid in the mine fields and those encountered during demining operations are destroyed in situ or moved to a safer and suitable location and destroyed.

Currently, only few and most of them inert which we have indicated in our 2010 transparent reports numbering 172 training mines are kept in the Eritrean Demining Authority training center for training related purposes and this is only if it is not against the recommendations of the convention protocols.

Finally, I would like to underline that my country always stands with the vision of '**a mine free Eritrea**' and is on the verge of preparing second phase mine action strategic plan to full fill its obligations.

I thank you.