



Agenda item 10 (b)
Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
Clearing Mined Areas

Thursday 29 November

Mister President,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Team, an inter-agency mechanism comprising 14 entities involved in mine action. Those members participating in the 11MSP are UNDP, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNOPS and UNODA.

We would like first to welcome the updates by States Parties on progress in the implementation of their Article 5 obligations.

According to the Landmine Monitor, there was an increase in the clearance of land from 2009 to 2010 to a total of at least 200 square kilometres. This would be the highest annual clearance figure ever recorded and a trend that underlines the serious intent of national mine action programmes and partners alike.

The United Nations has provided assistance in mine action to several of the countries with the largest mine clearance in 2010 (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Croatia, Iraq along Sri Lanka, which is not a State Party to this Convention). Certainly the United Nations is glad for this progress, which is due to effective partnerships between affected countries, donors, NGOs and the United Nations and to the unequivocal national ownership demonstrated by those affected countries with regard to the problem and its solution.

These represent one of the significant strides of the Convention and its promise for a mine free world. However, a lingering legacy remains due to the reported continued use of anti-personnel mines in at least four countries during the last years. This situation has added to the existing contamination still waiting for clearance instead of contributing to a vision to eliminate these weapons for good.

In a direct correlation between mine action programming and a meaningful impact to reduce deaths and injuries, mine clearance saves life and limb and should remain one of the main

priorities of the Convention along with the emphasis on all States Parties to fulfil their Article 5 obligations in a timely and effective manner.

One way to counter the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war continues to be to advocate for the link with development plans and efforts. When reversing the negative human impact of landmines, we also continue to support facilitating the productive use by the communities of released land and the recovery and re-engagement of survivors in community life.

We noticed with satisfaction that an increased use of land release techniques its helping in providing a clearer picture of the problem and on the resources necessary to comply with Article 5 obligations, as well as in reducing the suspected areas. The UN Mine Action Team encourages all affected countries to introduce these techniques in their mine action operations.

The United Nations Mine Action Team supports the inclusion of gender perspectives in all areas of mine action work as a means to increase the effectiveness of policies and programmes, and strengthen the overall mine action programme. Together with the NGO Gender in Mine Action Programme we organized yesterday an event where we heard about updates on the mainstreaming of gender into mine action programming.

The United Nations Mine Action Team is committed to continuing its support to all States Parties and to make this assistance consistent with the obligations and aims of the Convention. Members of the United Nations Mine Action Team join others in congratulating Nigeria and Burundi for fulfilling its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention and express the hope that more and more of such announcements will be welcomed by this forum in the coming years

Thank you