

Belgium - 7/12 AM

Mr president,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Having noticed the success of the daily ICBL quiz, I couldn't resist and I also would like to propose a quiz, this time, more specifically on reporting :

[see slide]

Answers can be submitted at the Belgian delegation and the prize is very interesting: at the choice of the winner, a CD with of a hardcopy from all initial reports submitted in the history of the Convention.

Mr President,

From the very beginning, reporting and exchange of information have been in the heart of the Convention. In the early years, they were of great importance for drawing the initial picture of the problems caused by anti-personnel mines and for guiding the work of the Convention.

This is still valid today: without accurate and detailed information and an annual update of this information, it is difficult to take the necessary actions for a full implementation of the Convention. And without an efficient reporting system, it is difficult to mobilize resources to support the implementation in those States Parties with needs.

Everyone in this room is aware of that.

However, we have to face the reality : the reporting rate is declining every year and this despite all our efforts supported by other States Parties, international organizations and civil society. It was also observed that the information in the Art 7 reports was sometimes of lesser quality and less complete as the information provided during the meetings of the Standing Committees and in the Art 5 extension requests.

That is why Belgium, in its capacity of coordinator for the Art 7 contact group, proposed in 2010 a food-for-thought paper to start discussions on how enhancing the exchange of information. We had discussions and consultations with all intrested States Parties, international organizations and civil society. This finally resulted in a roadmap for a better reporting and exchange of information that I wish to present to this meeting.

But, before coming to that point, let me present you the figures of last year's reporting rate. This will, unfortunately, give a better understanding of the need for a roadmap with a concrete action plan.

[slides]

This low reporting rate, has a lot of causes of which the lack of awareness of the importance of reporting as well of the opportunity it offers might be the most important.

This guided Belgium in the drafting of the proposed paper. Allow me to present the main points of this roadmap.

ARTICLE 7 REPORTING

12 MSP

Quiz of the day :

Question : Article 7 reporting is :

- a.legal obligation
- b.a tool
- c.an opportunity
- d.all of the above mentioned answers are correct

Article 7 : Initial Reports Compliance rate (November 2012)

- December 2012 : 158 initial reports due
156 initial reports received
- Late initial reports : 2(Equatorial Guinea,
Tuvalu)
- Compliance rate : 98,7 %
- Initial reports not yet due : 2 (Finland, Somalia)

Article 7 Annual Reports Compliance rate

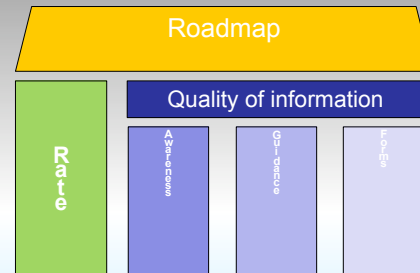
- Reports due : 158
- November 2012 : 91 reports received
- Compliance rate : 57,6 %

One of the lowest rate ever !

Roadmap for a better exchange of information

- Clear objectives
- Concrete actions
- 2014 3rd review Conference = natural deadline
- Global approach

Roadmap for a better exchange of information



Increasing reporting rate

Objectives

- All initial reports (3RC)
- Annual update of all SP with obligations (3RC)
- Facilitate annual update for SP without obligations (13 MSP)

Actions

- Ongoing actions approaching SP
- Focus on SP with obligations and more bilateral contacts
- Providing assistance
- Note Verbale for SP without obligations

Quality Awareness

Objectives

- Raising awareness of importance of reporting by presenting reporting as a tool and an opportunity (2013 SC)

Actions

- Approach Co-Chairs to organize reporting session within their thematic sessions
- Possible priority on Art 5 implementation and VA

Quality Guidance

Objectives

- For the 13 MSP, having actualized the reporting guide and at latest for the Second Review Conference having a separate reporting guide on Article 5 and Victim Assistance.

Actions

- Updating Vertic guide (new forms, see below)
- Integrate experience in guide
- Drafting specific guides for e.g. Art 5 and VA

Quality Forms

Objectives

- At the 13 MSP, proposing an updated reporting form for recommendation for use

Actions

- Integrate specific forms for VA and Assistance & Cooperation

Conclusions

- Ongoing effort to increase reporting rate
- Start discussions and implement « Roadmap »
- Evaluation at the 2014 3rd Review Conference