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Republic of Palau
FRIDAY; 7 December 2012
12 MSP for the Anti-Personnel Land Mine Convention

AGENDA ITEM 10G: TRANSPARENCY

Mr. President Ladies and Gentleman,

Thank you for the chance to address the floor.

Since Palau submitted its initial transparency report, Palau has continued to comply with its obligation under paragraph 2 of Article 7 to provide updated information on the implementation of the Convention.

In complying with its obligation, Palau has also been diligent to report on any anti-personnel mines it has found and destroyed as part of broader efforts undertaken by Palau to address widespread problems associated with Second World War explosive remnants of war.

Palau in many respects is like countries in Europe, like France, Belgium, the Netherlands or Italy, which experienced widespread conflict during the Second World War and which have had to live with the remnants of this almost seven decades after conflict ceased.

Like these other States I mentioned, Palau does not consider that it has an obligation under Article 5 as the problem it faces is dealing with a long-term challenge associated with UXOs in large battlefield areas with decades-old anti-personnel mines only a small minority of the ordnance found.

In fact, whereas over 17,500 pieces of ordnance have been destroyed over the past three years, Palau only reported in its last transparency submission two anti-personnel mines found and destroyed.

Palau understands that transparency in implementation has been recognized as one of the matters essential for achievement of the Convention's core aims. As such, Palau will continue to act in a highly transparent way, both as required under Article 7 and voluntarily as encouraged in the Cartagena Action Plan.

Palau will also promote full compliance with Article 7 obligations in the Pacific, in part by assisting those States Parties which do not have any new information to provide each year but which should still inform the depository of this fact.