

7112
AM

106

12MSP

Co-chairs Norway and Peru - Statement on compliance

Mr. President,

Norway and Peru, as co-chairs for the committee on the general status and operation of the Convention, are concerned about any allegations of use of antipersonnel mines. It is the responsibility of every States Party to ensure compliance with the Convention. The Mine Ban Convention has established a norm that has virtually ended use of antipersonnel mines including by many States not Parties. This is due to the humanitarian harm they cause, both during a conflict and long after hostilities have ended. Use of antipersonnel mines is therefore never acceptable under any circumstances.

Any allegation of non-compliance should be of the outmost concern to all States Parties. Furthermore, ensuring compliance is also an important purpose of the meeting of States Parties.

Regarding allegations of use, we urge the concerned States Parties to investigate and report to the States Parties on the outcome of those investigations. If use has occurred, the responsible ones must be held accountable according to applicable national legislation. The verification system of the Convention is that states themselves respond to such allegations, demonstrate transparency and cooperation.

As co-chairs for the committee on the general status and operation of the Convention, Norway and Peru have sent letters to three States Parties to follow up concerns about compliance, in which we sought to engage those State Parties to report and give further information about the different allegations of use in their respective countries. We see this as an action undertaken in the cooperative spirit of the convention, and we indeed hope that the three states parties will provide us with updates. How States Parties handle these most serious of possible breaches of the treaty will be a clear indicator of their commitment to preserving the treaty's strength and integrity.

Thank you, Mr. President.