Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 13th Meeting of States Parties

Agenda Item 11: Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, compliance issues

Statement by Austria

Mr. President,

My delegation has already referred to a number of compliance issues during the general exchange of views. We would like to make a few additional remarks during this debate.

Austria has earlier this week expressed its deep concern about information on the use of anti-personnel mines in Yemen. We express our appreciation for the open and constructive manner in which Yemen has reported about the use of anti-personnel mines that took place in Yemen. We support Yemen in its approach to fully investigate and clarify this case without delay and to hold those responsible accountable, and to report back to the states parties. We strongly encourage Yemen to take all necessary measures in accordance with the Treaty to identify and clear all mines, destroy any stockpiles and take all necessary precaution measures for the protection of the population, and to regularly update states parties on the progress. All necessary measures should be taken to prevent and suppress any future prohibited action and to ensure that, firstly, no more human suffering will be caused from these inhuman weapons and, secondly, that those that have fallen victim receive the adequate assistance.

We are convinced that such a transparent and cooperative approach is in the very interest of all states parties of the Convention in the context of addressing a possible violation of the general principles of the Convention. Such an approach is also of utmost importance to ensure the integrity of this Treaty.

Mr. President, full transparency is also necessary for the allegations of use that States Parties have recently been facing. These allegations must be investigated urgently, fully clarified and reported back to the States Parties of this Treaty. We need to do our utmost to ensure that these weapons cannot cause any further harm to civilians.

Thank you.