

Minister - Counsellor

Mr. Robert GERSCHNER

*[TOP 2.e Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance]*

Mr President,

Austria was pleased with the Committee on Cooperative Compliance having been established by States Parties at the Maputo Review Conference as an important platform to assist States Parties to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance challenges.

We express our appreciation to you, Mr. President, and the whole Committee, for the conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee which you have just presented, as well as on the valuable work you have been doing to assist States Parties to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance challenges.

In this context, we note with satisfaction that as also the latest landmine monitor confirms, compliance is generally excellent.

There seems to have been no new use of antipersonnel mines by a States Party recently. We commend the engagement of the Committee with a number of States Parties on the issue of allegations of past uses of antipersonnel mines. We call on the States Parties concerned to clarify outstanding allegations of use at the earliest possible and take any necessary steps for full compliance with the Convention, and inform States Parties accordingly in a spirit of transparency, and to immediately take all measures necessary to protect the civilian population from any more harm.

Mr President,

Austria condemns any use of anti-personnel mines by any actor, State or non-State, Party or non Party to the Convention. Worryingly, the number of States Parties on the territories of which antipersonnel mines, as well as victim activated improvised explosive devices, are being used by non State actors, seems to be increasing recently. This negative trend confirms our assessment that it is important to engage non State actors where possible on this issue and we commend the work done in this regard by the NGO Geneva Call.

Under this agenda item, my delegation would also like to raise its concern that deadlines for stockpile destruction under Art. 4 have elapsed already for some years for a few States Parties. Some other States Parties have asked for extension of deadlines for clearance under Art. 5. In view of this, we call on States to do their utmost to comply with deadlines and thereby add credibility to their commitment to live up to the Convention's obligations.