

**Comments on states that declared completion
in the past, but are still finding contamination**

**Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
Santiago, Chile, 29 November 2016**



Thank you Madam Chair.

We know the Committee and the Presidency have worked hard throughout the year to make sure that the convention stays strong, and to secure more progress on clearance. States Parties have agreed to Article 5 as a legal framework for mine clearance, and it is only fair to ask that all States Parties respect it equally.

Three states have declared completion of mine clearance in past years but are still finding antipersonnel landmine contamination on their territory. Under Article 5, and in accordance with their respective completion declarations, they need to share information with other States Parties and to clear the mined areas as soon as possible. If clearance cannot be completed before the Meeting of States Parties, they must request an extended deadline.

The contamination in those three states goes beyond “residual” contamination that could be addressed through spot tasks. To our knowledge, clearance of the mined areas was not completed before this meeting. Therefore, all three states should have requested extensions ahead of this meeting.

Jordan declared completion of mine clearance in 2012, but since then, it has discovered and destroyed hundreds of antipersonnel mines in mined areas, thanks to thorough verification efforts. It still has several square kilometers to verify.

Mozambique declared completion of clearance in 2015 but a few months later, in March 2016, it found an additional suspected mined area of about 60,000 m². We have heard that recently Norway agreed to fund the necessary work and that it would take less than a year to release the area.

Nigeria declared completion of clearance in 2011 but the use of antipersonnel mines by a non-state armed group in 2015 and 2016 resulted in contamination and casualties in the provinces of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa.

In all three states we trust that the national authorities are – or will be – working diligently on survey and clearance. But under Article 5, all three states should have been assigned a deadline at this meeting through an extension request process.

We look forward to hearing from all States Parties on how they want to handle this situation.

Thank you.