

**18th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
16-20 November 2020**

Agenda item 7. General exchange of views – CANADA

Mr. President,

I want to thank you for all your efforts to engage States Parties in order to achieve progress in the implementation of the Convention this year despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. We have been pleased to be able to support you as a member of the Coordination Committee.

As Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, we have been witness to the commitment of many States Parties to the Convention's implementation. At the same time, we recognize that much work remains to be done in order to achieve our common goal of a mine-free world. That is why we welcome the commitments made at the Fourth Review Conference and the steps taken to measure our progress on the Oslo Action Plan.

One of the major challenges for the Convention is the issue of **anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature**, given the increase observed in recent years in their use and in the number of victims of these devices. Improvised anti-personnel mines do fall under the purview of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, as long as they meet the definition of Article 2.1. It is important that States Parties report on improvised anti-personnel mines, even if they are party to other legal instruments that cover such devices. To this end, clear and disaggregate reporting and information management is essential, as stressed by the Oslo Action Plan. Moreover, this cannot be fully achieved if some States Parties do not submit their annual Article 7 Transparency Report. The fact that several States Parties have failed to do so for several years is a matter of concern for Canada.

A major outcome of the Fourth Review Conference is the commitment to **gender mainstreaming**. We appreciate the decision to amend each Committee's mandate to ensure the consideration of "matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work". For Canada, this is an important step to ensure gender equality is mainstreamed in the Convention and is not sidelined as a niche topic. This year, the members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation have made sure to address gender mainstreaming in our interaction with States Parties and to discuss the related commitments of the Fourth Review Conference.

Mr. President,

As States Parties engage in the work of the Convention in order to achieve its goals, we need to ensure inclusivity in the Convention's activities. One element of this is to uphold **multilingualism** in our work. As a number of states have highlighted this year, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention does not formally require that documents of official meetings be translated into the six languages of the Convention. This is in contrast to other disarmament legal instruments. We believe this oversight needs to be addressed by including clear language in the final document of the 18th Meeting of the States Parties, reiterating the commitment of States Parties to multilingualism and including a decision by States Parties to translate official documents of official meetings. At a time when we have too often seen delegates deprived of language services in disarmament conventions, this is an essential step to ensure fair and effective participation in our multilateral work.

Thank you.