

9g. TRANSPARENCY AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

As you know, according to Article 7 of the Convention, States Parties are obliged to submit annually updated information on the actions that they are taking to implement the provisions of the Convention. Article 7 is a legal obligation for all States Parties.

It is important highlight the fact that in Oslo we adopted some strong decisions on reporting. In particular Action #49 of the Oslo Action Plan holds that States implementing obligations under Article 4 or 5, or retaining or transferring mines in line with Article 3 that have not submitted Article 7 Reports detailing progress in implementation will work with the ISU to ensure submission. If they have not submitted a report in two consecutive years, the President will assist and engage with the State Party in close cooperation with the relevant Committee.

Furthermore, as you heard from me earlier today, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance is also mandated to encourage States Parties to report and to address all matters under Article 1.2 in cases where a State Party has not submitted an Article 7 Report detailing progress in implementing relevant obligations each year.

The submission of regular updated information, in addition to being a legal obligation, is of great importance to obtain a precise picture of the overall status of implementation of the Convention. Reporting is also a means for States Parties to communicate on their achievements and to highlight the remaining challenges they may be facing. The information

contained in the reports is also essential for the Committees to fulfil their respective mandates.

Since the Oslo Review Conference, it has become even more important that States Parties provide high quality and accurate information in their Article 7 reports, as they serve as the main source of data to assess progress and measure the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

In this regard, the Committees and myself in my capacity as President, have used this year's Article 7 reports to establish a baseline value for all the indicators of the Oslo Action Plan and we have presented our findings in a draft progress report and its accompanying documents.

Every year progress will be measured against this baseline.

Let me reiterate that it is especially important that States Parties implementing core obligations under the Convention submit updated information annually and that this information be of a high quality.

Article 7 is a key compliance and progress measuring tool for all of us.

States Parties which are not in the process of implementing core obligation under the Convention and/or that have no updated information to provide can make use of the simplified reporting tool so as to make reporting easier and quicker.

The 2020 overall reporting rate is just over 50 percent and amongst the States Parties which have not provided reports in 2020 are States Parties which have key obligations to fulfil.

We can do better than this.

For those States that have not yet submitted a report, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible

A number of tools have been developed over the years to facilitate reporting and to guide States Parties in the process of preparing Article 7 reports. I would like to encourage States Parties to make use of these tools as well as seek the support of the Implementation Support Unit when preparing their transparency reports.