



ICRC

ICRC Statement on Mine Clearance

Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Maputo, 23-27 June 2014

On behalf of the ICRC, we wish to express our appreciation to all mine-affected States Parties which have taken the floor today to present the state of implementation of their Article 5 obligations. We also thank those States Parties that have mentioned ICRC support for such work.

The ICRC's activities in support of mine action efforts aim to prevent new victims of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, and reduce the impact of contaminated areas on affected communities. We do this through a multidisciplinary approach that includes a combination of information management about weapon contamination, risk awareness, risk reduction, capacity-building for surveying and clearance, and in some cases facilitating clearance, in cooperation with stakeholders including National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The commitment of States Parties to fully comply with their obligations under Article 5 - and to complete the clearance of their mined areas (in the words of Article 5) "as soon as possible" - must be evidenced by deeds, not words.

The ICRC is concerned that some mine affected States Parties have fallen behind on their targets under their national demining plans. We are also deeply concerned by the fact that certain mine-affected States Parties which have benefited from the extension of their mine clearance deadlines appear still not to have adequate plans in place.

In this respect, one of the first tasks of the proposed Committee on Article 5 Implementation should be to examine these cases as a priority. We urge the Committee to work with the concerned States Parties to help them overcome the challenges that may be impeding effective action on the ground. A prerequisite for overcoming these challenges remains of course the implementation of effective national demining plans that set clear timetables, with the necessary assistance from partners.

Thank you.