

**June 14, 2005**  
**Statement of Canada**  
**Obligations of States Parties under Article V**

Madame Co-Chair,

Canada fully supports the vision, and realistic goal, of a mine-free world in which mine-affected States Parties have a legal obligation to clear all known or suspected mined land with appropriate support from the rest of us.

We believe that the obligations of Article V are very clear, indeed completely unambiguous. The interim phase of achieving a “mine-safe” status, while important, is only a step along the way to achieve full compliance with Article V obligations. While, clearly laudable, such a step should only be considered as a means for mine-affected states in developing priorities for clearance, and not as an end in itself.

Canadian support for all aspects of mine action, including the priority of leveraging greater resources collectively for mine clearance, will take fully into account the needs and plans of mine-affected States Parties in this regard.

As we agreed in Nairobi, the priority of “finishing the job”, particularly on mine clearance, will pose a major challenge for us all. It is nonetheless achievable.

Thank you Madame Co-Chair.