

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction  
Statement by Norway  
25 May 2009

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Thank you.

First of all let me thank the Co-Chairs for their update of the general situation. I would also like to thank the various States Parties who have provided more detailed information regarding progress in implementation of Article 4 of the Mine Ban Convention.

Three States Parties are currently non-compliant with the Mine Ban Convention as they have not fulfilled their Article 4 obligations within the deadlines. Article 4 contains no provision for extension of deadlines, and this is now a grave situation for the Convention which we must do our utmost to resolve.

The main objectives of the Mine Ban Convention are humanitarian – to prevent new victims, and to care for victims and survivors. The prompt destruction of stockpiles is a preventive measure to ensure that mines are never used again, and therefore integral to the humanitarian objectives. Millions of anti-personnel landmines have been destroyed since the Convention was negotiated in 1997. However, millions more remain in stock, and some of those in States Parties whose destruction deadlines have already passed or will pass this year or next year.

The present status of non-compliance is counterproductive to the humanitarian objectives of the Convention, *and* a legal issue as States Parties have not fulfilled their legal obligations. We urge those States Parties to ensure that they comply with their obligations as soon as possible, and we urge States Parties in a position to do so to fulfil their obligations of cooperation and assistance.

Last year, the then Co-Chairs of this Committee suggested ways to prevent further cases of non-compliance with Article 4, and to ensure that non-compliant States Parties act as soon as possible, in a transparent way, to fulfil their obligations. We fully agree with these recommendations which were adopted at the 9MSP, and would like to remind the three non-compliant States Parties that reporting on progress includes not only providing a snapshot of the current situation, but most importantly plans for bringing their states into compliance with the Convention as soon as possible, with concrete dates. We welcome the plans presented that indeed do include such a plan that progress can be measured against, and urge other non-compliant States Parties to follow such examples.

Thank you.