

Meetings of the Standing Committees
Statement by Angola
27 May 2009

Thank you Ms. Co-Chair

The National Intersectorial Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance “CNIDAH” is the Angolan Government Mine Action Authority responsible for the implementation of the Ottawa and Cluster Munitions Convention.

Over the last two years, the Commission has been experiencing increased difficulties in gathering and providing information, as is our responsibility under Article 7 of the Convention. The main reason for this is the considerable increase in the number of operators carrying out mine clearance throughout our vast country.

To give you a brief example, Angola has three public operators each of them with more than 10 Brigades of deminers conducting clearance on infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and railways.

In addition to these, there are 20 national and international NGOs mostly directed to clear the impacted areas according to the LIS carried out between 2004 and 2007, as well as more than 50 commercial companies carrying out contract work.

All of these operations should regularly report their activities and progress to the Commission in order to update its database which has not been happening.

We are aware of our January 2013 Article 5 deadline and our requirement under Article 7 to report progress on a regular basis.

Therefore we are taking this opportunity to seek assistance, under Article 6 of the Convention, for the implementation of our Land Release Project and to identify the right course of action in methodologies based on the experiences of States Parties to enable us to fulfil the requirements under Article 7.