



**13^{ème} Assemblée des Etats Parties
à la Convention sur l'interdiction de l'emploi, du stockage, de la
production et du transfert des mines antipersonnel et sur leur
destruction**

Déclaration prononcée par la délégation suisse

General Status / Compliance /

Genève, 5 décembre 2013

Mr. President,

My delegation is taking the floor on the issue of compliance with the treaty's obligations, as we are convinced that the credibility of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty depends in [large] part on how we, as States Parties, collectively deal with this question.

The Mine Ban Treaty has indeed had a tremendous impact in addressing the threats posed by anti-personnel landmines. Vast tracts of land have been cleared and there are fewer new victims every year. The trade in these weapons has virtually stopped. And anti-personnel mines have been stigmatized as an abhorrent and unacceptable means of warfare on a global scale. Nevertheless, the work is not done yet and we have to ensure that we pursue our goal with perseverance.

It is for this reason that we are concerned about information that antipersonnel landmines have been recently used in countries not party to the Convention. We cannot but condemn these acts, a condemnation that extends to the alleged use of anti-personnel mines by armed non-state actors.

We are even more concerned by different allegations of use of anti-personnel landmines by States Parties to the Convention. We urge that the States concerned by these allegations will swiftly address them, provide the necessary clarification based on thorough investigations and, take the appropriate

legal measures. It is important to note that other type of action may be necessary in order to correct the situation and ensure that it will not be repeated. Depending on the case at hand, this may require activities to be carried out regarding demining, mine risk awareness and victim assistance. (It may require more fundamental measures to ensure that all the norms originating in the treaty are translated and implemented at the national level.)

My delegation would like to thank the representative of the concerned States parties for their statements delivered with a view to fully informing the other States Parties and to ensure transparency in regard to the allegations of use. A dialogue on this important matter with all States Parties is welcome and Switzerland is keen to further the engagement on this matter.

In this context, we take note of the communication by Yemen last month and earlier this week on the breach of the Convention in Yemen. Deeply concerned by the situation, we appreciate Yemen renewed commitment to fully implement the convention. We call upon Yemen to continue to report in a transparent and comprehensive manner on this issue, in particular on the investigation carried out, the measures taken to clear minefields and destroy any additional stocks discovered and the action undertaken to prevent any such event from repeating itself.

We would like to reiterate our conviction that the credibility and sustainability of the Convention depends strongly on the way how we deal collectively with questions of compliance. This is certainly an element that will have to be borne in mind as we work towards the Maputo Review Conference.