

ICBL Statement on Compliance

Mine Ban Treaty Interessional Meetings, Geneva, 18-20 June 2024

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We highly appreciate the ongoing efforts by the President and the Committee on Cooperative Compliance in addressing the various compliance issues within the framework of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The ICBL welcomes Ukraine's report on the investigation of the use by its armed forces, at the meeting today. We are pleased to hear the pre-trial investigation is underway and appreciate Ukraine sharing some details in this regard today. We also welcome Ukraine's public recommitment to the treaty and the mine ban community, and the recognition for civil society.

We recognize the effort undertaken by Ukraine to investigate this use, while continuing to face the horrible situation due to the all-out aggression by Russia, who itself has extensively used several types of antipersonnel mines on Ukraine's territory leading to dramatic numbers of casualties, suffering and destruction.

We look forward to Ukraine sharing further updates with States Parties as the investigation progresses. It is equally critical Ukraine undertakes all and every possible step to prevent any potential use of antipersonnel mines in the future. We would like to learn more about the steps Ukraine has undertaken to account for and secure the stockpiles of anti-personnel mines remaining under its control. Perhaps Ukraine could share more about this during the session dedicated to stockpiles destruction. It would also be very useful to hear about the communications that are being conveyed to Ukraine's armed forces to remind that antipersonnel mines are prohibited and cannot be deployed.

Ukraine's strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and a firm declaration never to use antipersonnel mines again is crucial for it to be seen as a responsible member of the Mine Ban Treaty community.

We ask the President, States Parties and partners to continue providing all necessary support to Ukraine to help ensure full compliance and address the needs on the ground.

Moving on to other issues.

Two States Parties - Greece and Ukraine remain in violation of the treaty for having missed their stockpile destruction deadlines long ago. We were encouraged, however, by the recent progress made by Greece on destruction of its stockpiles and we look forward to hearing further details from Greece on its destruction efforts and completion timeline in the next session. As for Ukraine, as mentioned earlier, it is critical Ukraine is undertaking concrete measures to ensure its stockpiled mines will not make their way to the battlefield while awaiting destruction.

There are also compliance concerns with respect to Article 3 on mines inappropriately retained for training and research, Article 5 on delayed action or non-action on mine clearance, Article 7 on the low rate of transparency reporting, and Article 9 on lack of national implementation measures.

Today, we are in particular concerned by Eritrea's lack of submission of its request for Art. 5 deadline and its absence this week. We are calling on Eritrea to submit its request without delay and to fully re-engage with the treaty to avoid repeating an unfortunate situation of non-compliance.

The norm against antipersonnel mines must be robustly defended. Russia's ongoing extensive use of antipersonnel mines and booby-traps, and Myanmar's continued use of these mines over two decades, blatantly mock the treaty. Recent reported new use of landmines by North Korean forces raises serious humanitarian concerns for civilians on both sides of the border. All States Parties should explicitly condemn these and any instances of use by any actor, in any situation, and reflect on other ways to further strengthen the norms and global stigma that could be adopted in the new action plan and declaration.

These persistent compliance concerns require dedicated and sustained efforts from the President, the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, and all States Parties. Addressing these issues effectively, including at the upcoming 5th Review Conference is vital for upholding the integrity of the Mine Ban Treaty and ensuring it remains a model for other instruments.

Thank you.