



24 May 2019

ICBL intervention at the First Preparatory Meeting of the 4th Review Conference

The Fourth Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty provides an opportunity to highlight the important successes in treaty implementation and universalization over the last 20 years. Even more important, it must identify the tasks that still remain and how to achieve them.

States and partner organizations should seize the opportunity to reiterate their intention to remain fully engaged and committed to the goal of ending the suffering caused by antipersonnel landmines, including by completing treaty implementation to the fullest extent possible by 2025. The Oslo Action Plan will be the most important action plan ever, as it should provide a concrete roadmap to achieve our 2025 goal!

The conference and its outcome documents should:

- Firstly, raise the alarm about the high number of casualties and condemn any use of antipersonnel landmines by any actor, including the use of improvised antipersonnel mines. Indeed, these fall under the Mine Ban Treaty and it is high time all States Parties and partners share this understanding and treat improvised anti-personnel mines as any other antipersonnel mines - stigmatize them and apply all of the Treaty provisions to them accordingly. We would also welcome discussion on concrete actions to prevent future use of all antipersonnel mines.
- Secondly, the Review Conference and its documents should carry a strong sense of urgency for finishing the job. The Oslo Plan should put the emphasis back on the actual obligation to clear all mined areas 'as soon as possible'. As we know, there are far too many states requesting too many extensions for their clearance deadlines. Further, in a number of states parties, we see no clearance reported year after year, and additional time being requested, often for further non-action. All these instances are against the spirit as well as the letter of the treaty, and in some cases, could constitute ongoing use of antipersonnel mines. And perhaps most disturbingly – this practice costs additional lives and limbs. This is unacceptable. Continuing to delay or avoid clearance, in our view, such cases constitutes non-compliance and should be addressed as such by this community, including in our discussions leading to the Review Conference and feeding

into the Oslo Plan. We cannot afford letting the work under this Treaty to become 'business as usual.'

- Thirdly, underline the ongoing importance of further universalization of the convention and the mine ban norm.
- Emphasize the crucial importance of genuine national commitment and ownership as indispensable driving force in fulfilling treaty obligations
- Underline inclusion and meaningful involvement of survivors and victims in all aspects of the convention (and not only in the field of assistance) - from process making through implementation - as vital for fulfilling the core goal of the convention.
- Regard survivors assistance and victims rights as an equal priority, and the area most requiring a significant boost to enhance progress.
- Include a commitment to keep providing high levels of engaged cooperation and assistance to allow completion of treaty implementation, including stepping up dedicated support to victim assistance as a pillar of mine action.
- Note that mine action under all pillars is an enabler of development and contributes to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Lastly, note that the commitments under Action Plans adopted at previous Review Conferences are still valid and should be acted upon.

The ICBL will contribute by:

- Making data and expertise from the *Landmine Monitor* available to States Parties.
- Advocating directly with decision-makers and government representatives through bilateral meetings and correspondence.
- Encouraging and providing technical support to its network members carrying out advocacy at the national level.
- Sponsoring campaigners to the Review Conference to ensure a diverse representation of affected communities and persons working directly with affected communities.
- Sponsoring survivors and ensuring their meaningful participation in the Review Conference.
- Disseminating expertise through side events co-hosted with partners and states.
- Ensuring media coverage of the issues in multiple languages including by international wires.

