



ICRC

Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Oslo, 25-29 November 2019

International Committee of the Red Cross Statement on stockpile destruction and retention of anti-personnel mines

The destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines has been one of the great successes of the Convention. Most States Parties previously holding stockpiles of antipersonnel mines have declared completion of stockpile destruction and collectively the States Parties have destroyed close to 53 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

The ICRC commends Belarus, Finland, Oman and Poland for having completed the destruction of their stockpiled anti-personnel mines since the third Review Conference. The ICRC also congratulates Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mauritania and Palau for having promptly destroyed newly discovered stockpiles in accordance with the procedures established at the Third Review Conference.

There remain two States Parties that have not yet met the requirement to destroy their anti-personnel mine stockpiles and for whom the deadlines to do so have long since passed, although some progress has been made in the past years. In this respect, we welcome that the draft Oslo Action Plan provides in Action 14 a practical and time-bound solution to prevent and/or put an end to non-compliance with obligations under Article 4.

With regard to the retention of anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes under Article 3(1) of the Convention, we take note that out of 70 States Parties that have reported such retention, several of them have not submitted annual updates on their retained mines for many years, while several others have reported the same number of retained mines for years. We therefore remain concerned about how to ensure that the number of mines retained for permitted purposes does not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for these permitted purposes, namely “for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques”. We urge all States Parties possessing retained mines to faithfully implement the commitment in the draft Oslo Action Plan of annually reviewing the number of retained mines and destroying those exceeding that number without delay. We commend Botswana, Thailand and Australia for their recent achievement in this regard.

To conclude, the ICRC encourages States Parties to continue to support each other with

stockpile destruction, in order for any remaining obstacles to be overcome as soon as possible.

Thank you.