

Statement on Transparency
Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine
Ban Convention
25-29 November 2019



Thank you, Mr. President.

Transparency is a key element of the success of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Transparency makes accessible information relevant to a State's fulfillment of its obligations under the Treaty and helps us track global progress.

It deters use of antipersonnel landmines and provides confidence to other states that the norm is being observed.

Transparency as a confidence-building measure is crucial in sustaining multilateral disarmament measures.

As of this month, 50% of States Parties had submitted annual reports in 2019. 84 States Parties have not submitted a report for calendar year 2018, most have failed to submit an annual transparency report for two or more years. States cannot choose from the Articles of the Treaty as may be convenient for them. All Articles are legally binding, including Article 7, which requires an updated report by 30 April each year thereafter, covering activities in the previous calendar year.

The Draft Oslo Action Plan sets out 49 Action Points. Points 8, 20, 21, 42 and 48 specifically require action in Article 7 reports. Transparency reports are necessary in addressing other action points.

Almost all the specified indicators are suitable for Article 7 reports.

Delegates! Transparency reporting should not be seen as a document to copy and paste from the previous year, but an opportunity to strengthen multilateral action. Does a 50% submission rate of required reports, mean we can look forward to only 50% of the Oslo Action Plan being addressed?

The ICBL continues to encourage states to submit their transparency reports by the deadline and provide complete information. Comprehensive submissions build a strong Treaty.

The ICBL is dismayed that few states use voluntary Form J to report on actions to promote universalization or strengthen the norm of non-use of antipersonnel landmines, or provide information on the convention's interpretive issues.

In closing, the ICBL would direct States Parties to read further the Transparency section of the Landmine Monitor report presented on the first day of this meeting. Article 7 reports are essential tools for the Landmine Monitor and for all of us to demonstrate to the world that we are committed to and continue making progress towards a landmine free world.

Thank you.