

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Intersessional Meetings | 22 June – 24 June 2021**

**Topic: *Completion and Sustainable National Capacities (Article 5 discussion)***

**When: *23 June 2021***

**Where: *virtual***

Mr. President,

Canada had the honour and pleasure to Chair the Committee on Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention last year. Mine clearance obligations under Article 5 are very clear, and each State Party has agreed to complete the clearance of all mines on its territory. Priority setting in each mine affected state is crucial even during this time of pandemic, as those high and medium impact areas that pose significant risk to populations must be addressed first.

We encourage those countries that are facing mine clearance deadlines to continue to provide detailed baselines, targets and indicators of their progress to date. We stress the importance of integrating mine action into national plans, including national development, community engagement, gender mainstreaming and reconstruction plans. It is important to provide a clear, realistic account of the mine contamination and the needs in terms of assistance, for this will help provide donors with the information they need to assist in an optimal manner.

Mr. President,

Canada is concerned by the growing number of casualties caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). We condemn any use of IEDs by any actor. We recall that anti-personnel mines are defined under the Ottawa Convention based on how they are initiated, if they are “designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons”, and not based on their method of fabrication. This means that the Convention applies to all anti-personnel mines, whether improvised or factory-made.

As a strong supporter of mainstreaming mine action into development, Canada has integrated mine action into a number of its bilateral aid programs to encourage land release for sustainable development which includes a strong focus on community engagement and gender mainstreaming.

We also call on States Parties to cooperate with each other regarding the implementation of the provisions of this Convention, and to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance, in accordance with Article 8.1.

Thank you,