

APMBC, Intersessionals, 18.-20.06.

Agenda Point 3. Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Statement of Austria

We wish to express our appreciation to the Committee on Art 5 implementation. We also want to thank the affected states, the ISU and other stakeholders for their work conducted and their efforts so far.

For the strength of the Convention continuous implementation of our obligations and commitments is key. Some challenges lay ahead, dealing with an increased number of extension requests this and the next year. There are fewer countries able to complete their obligations, in addition to less availability of funding.

To tackle these challenges, there is a number of things we can do. We must ensure that states preparing a request have the best tools and support available to them, that it is clear what requests should include and that the Committee is best prepared in order to handle the burden of work. This, we believe, will take a continuous dialogue. We value an open, inclusive and transparent dialogue on how to ensure that the process is fit for purpose.

We thank the Art. 5 Committee for sharing their preliminary observations on their activities pursuant to the decision of 21MSP on strengthening the review process and their activities so far, such as meeting with the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance to discuss synergies.

We support forming an informal support group to the Committee to be able to handle the workload going forward. In addition, we need engagement, input and expertise from civil society, the ICRC, and implementing partners throughout the process. This treaty was borne out of an unprecedented partnership between states, civil society and the ICRC. Since then it has kept the spirit of cooperation among all actors, which we value greatly going forward, to face future challenges together and fulfill the purpose of the treaty, to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by antipersonnel mines.

We also think the implementation of Actions 23 and 24 of the Oslo Action Plan continues to be of great importance and should be included in the next Action Plan, that extension requests contain detailed, multi-year costed clearance and mine risk education plans. A Focus on Risk Education is indispensable for saving lives while land is returned to use. Survey plans are equally important to be able to assess the requirements laid out in an extension request.

Austria stands ready to continue to engage on this process,

Thank you