

## **Status of the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Mr. President, dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to take the floor on behalf of the two thematic coordinators of Article 4, Norway and Guyana, to provide an update on the status of the implementation of **Article 4 on clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and risk education.**

I would first like to express our gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit and the Iraqi Presidency for the excellent cooperation in the preparation of the Meeting of the States Parties.

Let me start by recognizing the important progress made over the last 12 months in the implementation of the convention, particularly related to clearance of cluster munition contaminated areas. During the last reporting period, 10 States Parties had obligations under article 4.

Recently we received the positive news that Bosnia & Hercegovina have met their obligations under article 4 and will soon become the eighth country to have declared completion since the Convention's entry of force. This achievement demonstrates the importance of survey, robust national strategies, and political will. We warmly congratulate Bosnia & Hercegovina on this accomplishment, which serves as an inspiration to all of us. However, there is still a lot of work to be done, with many deadlines approaching in the coming years. The Lausanne Action Plan remains our guiding tool for the work ahead.

In our role as thematic coordinators and chairs of the ad-hoc Analysis Group, Guyana and Norway assessed the two Article 4 extension requests submitted by Iraq and Mauretania. In close collaboration with the ISU, we held separate meetings with Iraq and Mauretania to provide quality assurance of the extension requests and assist in establishing work plans for clearance.

### **We will now provide a short summary of some key updates under Article 4 of the Convention:**

Out of the 10 States Parties with obligations under article 4, 8 have submitted their annual reports in 2022 detailing progress in implementing strategies and plans. We encourage the two remaining States Parties to finalize and submit their reports as soon as possible. The latest signatory to the Convention, South

Sudan, submitted a voluntary report in 2023, providing details about its cluster munition contamination and clearance operations.

Five states parties have reported to be on track to meet their Article 4 deadlines.

Two States Parties have informed that they will not be able to meet their deadlines in 2024 and 2025, and that they will be submitting extension requests for the next MSP. As mentioned already, two States Parties (Mauretania and Iraq) with deadlines in 2023 and 2024, already submitted their extension requests.

All 10 States Parties with Article 4 obligations reported to have allocated national resources to clearance operations. 7 States Parties requested international cooperation and assistance due to implementation challenges.

6 States Parties received international cooperation and assistance.

We are pleased to report that 9 States Parties have provided risk reduction education, and that 3 of them have provided detailed information on their risk education efforts, including disaggregated data.

In concluding, we would like to stress the importance of accelerating the work to clear all remaining contaminated areas. We also reiterate the importance of applying evidence-based land release methodology, and to explore innovative approaches to improve programme performances. We hope that the positive experience from Bosnia & Hercegovina this year will motivate others to cross the finishing line.

Thank you, Mr. President.