

## **ICBL-MAC Statement on Transparency**

Thank you Chair. I am pleased to deliver this statement as a Mine Action Fellow from Sri Lanka and as someone who has never known a world without the Ottawa Treaty.

For my entire life, landmines have been banned and over the past 25 years, the treaty has made amazing progress. But without transparency reports, we cannot tell the story of our achievements.

Submitting annual transparency reports is more than a way to tell the world of our successes. It is a legal obligation for states parties. A legal obligation that too many states are not living up to.

For affected states, reporting on progress and needs is a crucial step for obtaining support for your work. For donor states, reports offer transparency for not only this community but also your own citizens. For other states, the article 7 report might be the only obligation you have under the treaty. All you have to do is check boxes once a year to contribute to the strength of the Treaty.

I would like to thank the states that complete their annual reporting on time. The data you provide is useful. However there is one concerning pattern emerging in the reports and that is the large number of retained mines maintained by some states. If year after year you are reporting little to no change in the number of mines retained for training purposes, it is time to reassess. Some of these mines have been sitting in storage for my entire life. Your country clearly does not need them for research or training and should destroy them instead.

It has been 25 years - at this point they need to go.

Thank you.