

Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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Consideration of submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5

Analysis of the request submitted by Cyprus for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Colombia (Chair), Sweden, Thailand, and the United Kingdom*

1. Cyprus ratified the Convention on 17 January 2003, and the Convention entered into force for Cyprus on 1 July 2003. In its initial transparency report submitted on 24 April 2005, Cyprus reported areas under its jurisdiction or control where anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. Cyprus was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 July 2013. Cyprus, believing that it would be unable to do so by that date, submitted a request to the 2012 Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) for a three-year extension of its deadline until 1 July 2016. The 12MSP agreed to grant the request.

2. In granting Cyprus' request, the 12MSP noted that Cyprus has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that it does not have effective control over the areas in question. The 12MSP further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.

3. Following its initial request for extension, Cyprus has subsequently submitted and been granted three additional requests for extension. On 27 March 2015, Cyprus submitted a request for an extension, which was granted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) for a period of three years, until 1 July 2019. On 2 February 2018, Cyprus submitted a request for an extension, which was unanimously granted by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) for a period of three years, until 1 July 2022. On 9 January 2021, Cyprus submitted a request for an extension, which was granted by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) for a period of three years, until 1 July 2025. The requests submitted in 2015, 2018, and 2021 indicated that circumstances that made it necessary for Cyprus to request an extension in 2012 remain unchanged.

4. On 8 March 2024, Cyprus submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 July 2025 deadline. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Cyprus had submitted its request in a timely manner. Cyprus' request is for three years, until 1 July 2028.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



5. The request indicates that the sole circumstance that impedes its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that it does not have effective control over the areas in question and, therefore, is unable to verify the status of known or suspected mined areas. Cyprus indicates that all mined areas in areas under the control of Cyprus have been declared free of anti-personnel mines. The request further indicates that all past documentation from its initial request remains valid in its entirety.

6. The Committee noted the importance of seeking a cooperative solution to ensure that Cyprus is, or may in the future be, in a position to declare completion of its obligations under Article 5 in line with the Government of Cyprus' commitment to constructively cooperate with the aim to remove all mines from the territory of Cyprus. The Committee noted the importance of Cyprus keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of efforts in this regard and other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5.

7. The Committee noted the importance of each State Party which has reported mined areas that contain or are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control and which believes that it will be unable to implement Article 5.1 with respect to all such areas within its original or extended deadline, submitting a request for an extension in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Convention and the decisions of the 17MSP and recommendations of the 12MSP. The Committee further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.
