

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Thank you Mr Chair for giving me the floor.

Let me at the outset thank the Committee on Article 5 implementation for their excellent work. We share the Committee's preliminary observations regarding Cyprus and wish to add the following information:

As you may be aware, unfortunately the circumstances on the ground remain unchanged since our last report, submitted 2 months ago. Namely, the Republic of Cyprus, while maintaining jurisdiction over the whole of the island, is still being forcefully prevented from exercising effective control over a large area of its sovereign territory in the northern part of the country. Thus the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus are prevented from having access in order to verify the status of known or suspected mine fields in this area. It is recalled that this was the reason for Cyprus' request and extension of the initial deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines.

Allow me to conclude by thanking the President of 16 MSP Ambassador Hajnoczi, the chairs of the Committees, ISU and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for the preparation of these intersessional meetings as well as for the cooperation with my country.