

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**  
**Intersessional meetings**  
**Geneva, 8-9 June 2017**  
**EU statement on Mine Clearance**

Madam Chair,

1. We would like to thank the Committee on Article 5 implementation for their preliminary observations on the implementation of Article 5 and the mine clearance related actions of the Maputo Action Plan.
2. The European Union remains committed to supporting mine clearance activities and will continue to cooperate and where possible extend assistance to States Parties that need and request support in meeting their mine clearance obligations under the Convention. Our assistance projects under the previous Council Decision had an important mine clearance component. In the new EU Council Decision, to be adopted shortly, mine clearance remains a top priority to support States Parties in the implementation of the mine clearance aspects of the Maputo Action Plan. In addition to these projects, the EU and its Member States continue to fund mine clearance activities in several mine-affected countries and regions of the world.
3. The European Union would like to congratulate Algeria for completing its clearance obligations and becoming a mine free country. Algeria's example gives impetus to the ongoing efforts of other mine-affected countries and has brought us a step forward towards the fulfilment of our aspiration for a mine free world.
4. The European Union believes that it is important for mine affected countries which are not able to fulfil their mine clearance obligations under Article 5 to indicate and submit in a timely manner a request for extension of their mine clearance deadlines according to the established process.
5. While we fully recognise the difficult challenges Ukraine faces in the implementation of Article 5 commitments, Ukraine's deadline for the request of extension of her mine clearance obligations has expired and we would like to see Ukraine submit such a request. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the continued cooperation of Ukraine with the Article 5 Committee in this regard.

Thank you, Madam Chair