

**Remarks from Canada (Chair of Committee on Article 5 Implementation)
Session on Extension Requests, 30 June 2020**

Dear Colleagues, it is an honour for me to chair this session on the Extension Request process, which is an extremely important element for the health and success of the Convention.

During this session, States Parties requesting extensions will have the opportunity to present a 5-minute summary of their request. I will then open the floor for any delegation that may wish to deliver a short 2-minute intervention on the specific request, and will offer the floor back to the State for brief final remarks.

In addition to this session, there will be two other sessions on the Extension Request process – one tomorrow, Wednesday from 17:15 to 18:00, Geneva time, and one on Thursday from 15:00 to 15:45.

Before I offer the floor to the States, I would like to provide a brief update on where we currently stand with the extension request process.

As many of you are aware, at the 7MSP in 2006, the States Parties agreed to a process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extensions of Article 5 deadlines.

The decisions taken included that States Parties seeking Article 5 extensions were encouraged to submit their requests no less than nine months before the Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference at which their requests would be considered, that all States Parties should be informed of the receipt of requests and that these requests were to be openly available in keeping with the Convention's practice of transparency.

In line with the decisions of the 7MSP, the Committee wrote to the States Parties to inform them that the following requests had been received by the deadline of 31 March:

- Colombia (received 18 March 2020)
- South Sudan (received 27 March 2020)

Since this time we have also received requests from:

- Niger (received 28 May 2020)
- Ukraine (received 8 June 2020)
- Senegal (received 16 June 2020)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (received 22 June 2020)
- Mauritania (received 26 June 2020)

In keeping with our usual practice, the Committee asked that these requests be made available on the Convention's web site.

At present we are still anticipating requests from three additional States: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Nigeria.

With a view to streamlining our work, the Committee sought expert input on the requests that had been submitted, inviting fourteen expert organizations to provide input.

These organizations were selected on the understanding that they are the world's leading not-for-profit organisations with demining expertise, they have widespread international experience or are active in the Convention and knowledgeable about its work.

Of the organizations that were invited to provide input, the following did so with respect to some or all of the requests:

- The International Committee of the Red Cross;
- The International Campaign to Ban Landmines;
- Mine Action Review;
- HALO Trust;
- Humanity and Inclusion;
- The Mines Advisory Group;
- The United Nations Mine Action Service;
- Norwegian People's Aid; and
- The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

The next step will be for the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to establish what additional clarifications from States Parties may be required to assist the Committee in ultimately producing analyses of the extension requests. In addition to this, the Committee will continue to engage with States Parties that have been delayed in the submission of their extension request.

As Chair of the Committee, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the States Parties that we have already had the opportunity to engage with.

Should this process result in States Parties submitting revised extension requests, as has occurred in previous years, the Committee will inform all delegations and ensure that these requests are made available on the Convention's website.

Due to the delays required for the translation of documents produced by the Committee, we are aiming to conclude our work by the first half of September, and we are grateful to the States Parties we engage with for their assistance in achieving this crucial aim.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, let me thank the States Parties that went through the process of preparing and submitting an extension request. Your effort to transparently present your achievements, but also your challenges, is very telling of your commitment to the Convention and to the implementation of Article 5.

Thank you very much.