

## GICHD remarks on APMC Article 5 extension request submitted by Ukraine

### Intersessional meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention June 2020

The GICHD would like to congratulate the government of Ukraine on the development and submission of their recent Article 5 extension request for an additional two years and seven months.

The request includes a general overview of the EO contamination and efforts applied to reduce their impact on the civilian population. Whilst this information is valuable, more detail would be useful in order to allow for a meaningful assessment of the way in which Ukraine will implement the actions associated with the Oslo Action Plan over the extension period.

In terms of OAP Action #18: The request states that an area of 7,000km<sup>2</sup> is potentially contaminated. This figure does not appear to have been reached following an evidence based non-technical survey that was based on information collected from all relevant sources. Ukraine would benefit from conducting a comprehensive non-technical survey to establish a baseline as soon as conditions allow or it is safe to do so.

In terms of OAP Action #19: It would be useful if Ukraine could provide at least a tentative action plan/workplan which outlines how the country is going to use the requested extension period to address the AP mine contamination. Such a plan could also outline the main risks and challenges that might hinder progress.

The request does not include information relating to Risk Education activities and plans. Action #24 of the Oslo Action Plan requires States Parties to include a detailed multi-year plan for risk education and risk reduction measures in their Article 5 extension request.

Another general observation is that the document submitted is gender and diversity 'blind'. A description of the impact of AP mines/other EO on women girls' boys and

men from diverse groups would be useful here. It would help to justify the extension and would usefully inform plans for Risk Education.

The GICHD has noted that Ukraine is making a concerted effort to update its national legal framework for mine action. This is a commendable initiative which should lead to the establishment of a dedicated national mine action center embedded within existing government architecture. It is likely that the establishment of a dedicated national entity will pay dividends in terms of Ukraine's capacity to coordinate mine action operations at the national level.

The GICHD would like to reaffirm its commitment to helping Ukraine on its path to completion.