

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer
of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction**

**15th Meeting of States Parties, Santiago de Chile,
28 November - 2 December, 2016**

Statement of Sweden

Agenda item 10.(b): Clearing mined areas

Madam President,

Speaking for the first time on behalf of my delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the preparation of our meeting for the excellent arrangements and great hospitality shown by our Chilean hosts. I would also like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your election and assure you of our full support. Let me also commend the staff of the ISU for their excellent work.

We would like to thank the Article 5 Committee for its work and the states which have given presentations and updates on their mine clearance operations. We also welcome that states which can't meet their deadlines, explains why and requests an extension of their deadline, in accordance with their obligations under the Convention. It is important that these mine clearance operations are now implemented.

Sweden also welcomes the detailed presentation by the delegation of Ukraine, of their efforts to clear APM and other ERW on its territory. Given Ukraine's other political and security challenges, we see this as a clear indication of Ukraine's commitment to the Convention.

As Sweden stated at the previous inter-sessional meeting earlier this year, we would have liked to see an extension request from Ukraine concerning their article 5 obligations on mine clearance, before their deadline expired. We understand Ukraine's challenge in fully implementing its mine clearance obligations, due to the armed aggression by the Russian Federation, the illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory as well as the illegal activities of armed non-state actors on Ukrainian territory.

While we regret that no extension request has been put forward by Ukraine, we would certainly welcome cooperation between the Article 5 Committee and Ukraine with an extension request as the preferred outcome. We take note that Ukraine earlier at this conference stated it was open for such engagement and cooperation. If Sweden can be helpful in this, we are certainly willing to engage as well.