

Remarks by the Delegation of Poland on Article 5

*Mr. President, Dear Delegates,*

Let me seize this opportunity to congratulate Austrian government for an excellent preparations and organization of 16. Meeting of the States-Parties.

We are celebrating 20 years of Ottawa Convention. This Convention became major instrument setting international standards. We need to stress how significant progress has been made during this time in eliminating and alleviating suffering posed by antipersonnel mines.

As in previous years Poland has made in 2017 another contributions in support of functioning of ISU and in support of UNMAS activity in Gaza. We will continue to keep antipersonnel mines and unexploded ordnance issue high on our political agenda.

*Poland welcomes the request for extension on mine clearance deadlines presented by several states.*

Poland understands the complex challenges Ukraine has to face to fulfill its commitments imposed by article 5 of the Ottawa Convention. The problem concerns some parts of the national territory which were subject to an external aggression and are temporarily out of control of the Ukrainian authorities.

We hope that Ukraine will be soon ready to submit such a request to be fully in line with the provisions of the Convention.

We support ongoing cooperation between Ukrainian authorities and Article 5 Committee on this issue.

*I thank you Mr. President,*