

STATEMENT
of the Delegation of Ukraine, at the 16th Meeting of the States-Parties to
the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production
and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction
(Vienna, December 19, 2017)

Let me start by saying that Ukraine has taken important principled decision regarding preparation of national extension request in terms of Article 5 of the Convention. This step forward matches the Convention, but at the same time has to receive support from the partners in the context to reflect the current situation in Ukraine. Such approach is based on the fact that during our discussions with the representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on this matter Ukraine repeatedly demonstrated flexibility and even made some concession. In return, the Secretariat didn't respond positively, probably acting strictly within its mandate.

I would like to use this opportunity to underline once again, that belligerent actions are taking place in eastern Ukraine. It is such situation that caused, through the enemy's fault, a problem to fulfill Article 5 by Ukraine and made demining impossible until the war ends. In this regard we stress that Ukraine remains open to discuss it with partners in order to submit its extension request according to Article 5 under the condition that the decision on granting such extension will also reflect the following three points: 1) February 2014 is fixed as a date, when mined areas appeared on the territory of Ukraine 2) Military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is the reason of appearance of relevant mined areas 3) Ukraine will start the effective implementation of Article 5 once its sovereignty and full territorial integrity is restored within internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as well as effective control over the whole territory, including control over its state border with Russia. It is important to us from technical point of view, taking into account the needs to collect properly all relevant information for the request. Currently to perform this task is impossible either in a view of the belligerent actions against Ukraine and actual prospective of demining, which may become realizable only after the completion of hostilities.

As far as the Ukrainian case is unprecedented one in the context of Article 5 implementation, we believe that preparation of a request within the current norms of Article 5 may be incorrect task, as it is clear beforehand that it is not realistic to comply with obligations, emerged from such request, without the said reservation. A possible balanced solution of this problem may be a reflection of abovementioned points in the Summary of this meeting in connection with extension request of Ukraine. Now we apply to all States Parties and the Secretariat to find the right decision, taking into account Ukrainian proposal. It will help to preserve integrity of the Convention and keeps it unwrapped as well as to avoid unnecessary discussion in future. The most

important thing is that it would pave the practical way forward for Ukraine to submit the extension request. We believe that our position is worth your attention, since it doesn't contravene the common vision of all States Parties to the Ottawa Convention regarding mutual goal - full and complete clearance of anti personnel mines and to see the world free of this type of weapons.

I thank you.