

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
16th MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
18-21 DECEMBER 2017

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT ON COOPERATIVE COMPLIANCE (11d)

1. The UK aligns itself with the statement of the European Union on Mine Clearance and has some comments to make in its national capacity. The UK is a strong supporter of the Convention, as demonstrated by our role on the Committee of Cooperative Compliance.
2. The UK recognises the challenges which have faced South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen, and appreciates their engagement with the Committee. The UK hopes this will continue next year, and would welcome: firstly, updated information on efforts by Yemen to carry out investigations of the use of mines and any additional information on the transfer of mines. Secondly, formally submitted updates from Sudan and South Sudan on efforts to address allegations of the deployment of anti-personnel mines, including information on the security situation in the remaining areas where allegations have surfaced and where security presents an impediment to investigations.
3. And thirdly, the UK recognises the tough challenges which Ukraine faces in delivering the implementation of its Article 5 obligations. However, the UK, like other States Parties here today, is deeply concerned about Ukraine's non-compliance with the Treaty. The UK therefore encourages Ukraine to submit a request for an extension to fulfil its Article 5 obligations, as per the rules of the Convention. This act would enable Ukraine to once again be in legal compliance with the Ottawa Convention. And this commitment would serve as a real, underlying demonstration to all other States Parties of Ukraine's moral promise to clear all of its territory of mines, beyond today's challenges. We must not, however, forget the severity of those challenges, or the fact that this situation has been exacerbated by aggression from the Russian Federation. Russia has destabilised eastern Ukraine and continues to provide material support for the separatists it backs. The UK, recognising the difficulty of Ukraine's position, has been providing bilateral support for humanitarian demining.
4. The UK reiterates the importance of all States Parties abiding by the Convention to ensure its proper functioning and, to uphold the last twenty years of progress since its adoption. This has saved countless lives. The UK encourages these and all parties to continue in dialogue with the Committee, and to keep the Committee apprised of any developments.