

Statement of the Polish Delegation on Article 5

*Madam President,*

Poland welcomes and congratulates Ukraine on its recent submission of the request for an extension of its deadline to complete the destruction of anti-personnel mine in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1.

Let me also use this opportunity to thank members of the Committee of Article 5, in particular delegations of Switzerland and the Netherlands, for all their efforts which were instrumental in bringing this process to successful conclusion.

*Madam President,*

The Ottawa Convention is about antipersonnel land mines. But, it also - indirectly and undoubtedly - touches the security aspects. There are very different cases we face within scope of the Convention. In fact, there are very few zero-one, black and white situations.

We understand that this awaited decision of the Ukrainian Government has legal and technical aspects but first and foremost it has a political dimension. Bearing in mind that Ukraine is a subject of external aggression of its neighboring country, this decision, as we see it, is a result of a long analysis of a security situation.

There are no, whatsoever, questions on applicability of the provisions of the Convention. Though each case is different, we need to apply same measures to assess them.

Nevertheless, we need to see situation in more holistic manner, including analysis of the most recent developments, also in other disarmament fora.

*I thank you Madam President,*