



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION: 17TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

UK Statement delivered under agenda item 8 on the informal presentation of requests for extension of deadlines submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests (Ukraine).

Thank you Madam Chair.

The UK welcomes the submission by Ukraine of a request for an extension to fulfil its Article 5 obligations, as per the rules of the Convention. We believe this demonstrates Ukraine's commitment to the Convention.

The UK, like other States Parties here today, recognises the tough challenges that Ukraine faces in implementing its Article 5 obligations, and that the situation has been fuelled by Russian aggression. Russia continues to destabilise eastern Ukraine, supplying support, weaponry and personnel to the separatists, exacerbating the conflict. In light of Russia's aggressive action against Ukrainian vessels on Sunday 25 November, we would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our full support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and territorial waters.

The UK, recognising the difficulty of Ukraine's position, has provided bilateral support for humanitarian demining, helping to prevent civilian casualties and restore conflict-affected land to viable use. We have already committed £1 million to demining programmes and have designated an additional £1 million for the next UK financial year, 2019-2020.

Thank you.