

**Analysis of the request submitted by Cyprus for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation  
(Chile, Colombia, the Netherlands, Switzerland)**

**2 October 2018**

1. Cyprus ratified the Convention on 17 January 2003, and the Convention entered into force for Cyprus on 1 July 2003. In its initial transparency report submitted in 24 April 2005, Cyprus reported areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. Cyprus was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 July 2013. Cyprus, believing that it would be unable to do so by that date, submitted a request to the 2012, Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) for a 3 year extension of its deadline, until 1 July 2016. The 12MSP agreed unanimously to grant the request.
2. In granting Cyprus' request in 2012, the 12MSP noted that, Cyprus has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that it does not have effective control over the areas in question. The meeting further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of article 5 during extension periods.
3. On 27 March 2015, Cyprus submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 a request for a three year extension of its 1 July 2016 deadline until 1 July 2019. The request submitted in 2015 indicated that circumstances that made it necessary for Cyprus to request an extension in 2012 remain unchanged. The Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) agreed unanimously to grant the request.
4. As with the request granted by the 12MSP, in granting Cyprus' request in 2015, the 14MSP noted that, Cyprus had expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that it does not have effective control over the areas in question. The meeting further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of article 5 during extension periods.
5. On the 2 February 2018, Cyprus submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 July 2019 deadline. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Cyprus had submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee. Cyprus' request is for 3 years, until 1 July 2022.
6. The request submitted in 2018 indicates that circumstances that made it necessary for Cyprus to request an extension in 2012 remain unchanged. The request furthermore refers to information contained within the 2012 request. In this regard, the Committee noted that it can be assumed that, during the period leading to the requested extended deadline, Cyprus would again evaluate the situation and form a fresh opinion as to whether matters have evolved so that Cyprus is, or

may in future be, able to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines and to arrive at a specific assessment of the time required for their destruction.

7. The Committee noted the necessity and importance of each State Party which has reported mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control and which believes that it will be unable to implement Article 5.1 with respect to all such areas within its original or extended deadline submitting a request for an extension in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Convention and the decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.