

# REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Submitted by Cyprus<sup>1</sup>

1. The Republic of Cyprus signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) on 3 December 1997. On 20 December 2002, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus ratified the Convention and the Instrument of Ratification was deposited with the United Nations (UN) Secretary General on 17 January 2003. The Convention entered into force for Cyprus on 1 July 2003.
2. In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Cyprus undertook to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these areas as soon as possible but not later than 1 July 2013.
3. On 30 April 2012, Cyprus submitted a request to extend its mine clearance deadline. The request for extension was granted at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties and a new deadline set for 1 July 2016. On 27 March 2015, Cyprus submitted a second request for an extended mine clearance deadline. This request was granted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties and a new deadline set for 1 July 2019.
4. In accordance with the relevant provisions of Article 5.3, the Republic of Cyprus is formally submitting a request for extension to the Chair of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Committee on Article 5 Implementation for a further 3-year extension, until 1 July 2022, of the deadline to fulfil its obligation under Article 5.1 to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.
5. The circumstances that made necessary the initial request for an extension – namely, the fact that certain parts of Cyprus's sovereign territory are occupied by the Turkish Armed Forces and therefore de facto outside the control of the Government – remain unfortunately unchanged to date.
6. As these occupied areas have been, since the time when the initial request for an extension was submitted, the only ones in the jurisdiction of Cyprus that remain emplaced with anti-personnel mines, a reference is made to all relevant documentation appended to the initial request for an extension of the deadline with regard to the requirements of Article 5.4, as information contained therein remains valid in its entirety. This initial request, which was submitted in April 2012, is available to all delegations on the Convention's website.

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<sup>1</sup> Request submitted through a letter by H.E. Ambassador George C Kasoulides, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus, to the Chair of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Committee on Article 5 Implementation