
**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

18 August 2015

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Geneva, 30 November - 4 December 2015

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Operation and status of the Convention. Presentation,
reporting, discussion and decision with regard to:**

**Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate
of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

**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
(Ecuador, Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

1. Cyprus ratified the Convention on 17 January 2003. The Convention entered into force for Cyprus on 1 July 2003. In its initial transparency report submitted on 24 April 2005, Cyprus reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. 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, on 30 March 2012, a request for an extension of its deadline until 1 July 2016. The 2012 Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties granted the request.
2. In granting the request, the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties noted that Cyprus has expressed that the sole circumstance which impeded the ability of Cyprus to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it had reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Cyprus had indicated that it does not have effective control over the remaining areas in question. The Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties 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 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 July 2016 deadline. Cyprus' request is for three years (until 1 July 2019). 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, including by meeting with the Committee on the margins of the Convention's June 2015 intersessional meetings.



4. The request submitted in 2015 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.

5. The Committee noted that Cyprus has reported that there are or may be 49 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in areas outside of its effective control and that Cyprus is not aware of the status of these mined areas. The Committee further noted that, as 28 of the areas in question involve mines emplaced by Cyprus' National Guard prior to entry into force of the Convention, Cyprus may be in a position to report, in accordance with Article 7, on the location of these mined areas and include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area.

6. The Committee noted the necessity and importance of each State Party that 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 a ten year period 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.
