International Campaign to Ban Landmines
Remarks on the absence of an extension request from Ukraine
19 May 2016

Thank you Madam Chair.

Ukraine has repeatedly stated since 2014 that opposition forces have newly laid antipersonnel mines on Ukrainian territory. Exhaustive presentations on the matter were delivered at the last Meeting of States Parties, at the most recent meeting of the Convention on Conventional Weapons, as well as here today at the intersessional meeting. The Mine Ban Treaty entered into force for Ukraine in 2006, and the deadline for clearing mined areas is 1 June 2016. The treaty applies under any circumstances, including during armed conflict.

In order not to become in violation of its clearance deadline, Ukraine should have submitted and been granted an extension request at the last Meeting of States Parties. However no request was submitted, and instead, the final report of the meeting recorded, "The official, duly compiled, request would be soon submitted to the States Parties for their consideration." But no request has been submitted so far.

Ukraine will unfortunately become in violation of Article 5 in a few days, on June 1st.

Ukraine should now prepare and submit an extension request as a matter of urgent priority in order for it to be granted at the upcoming Meeting of States Parties. **As soon as the request is reviewed and granted, Ukraine will no longer be in violation of Article 5.** Ukraine has every interest in following this procedure agreed to by all States Parties.

Article 5 specifies that a State Party is responsible for clearing mined areas under its jurisdiction **or** control. Any suspected or confirmed mined areas under Ukraine's control, <u>or under Ukraine's jurisdiction</u>, should be covered in the extension request. It might be helpful to recall that other States Parties have been granted extensions after explaining that they considered that certain mined areas were under their jurisdiction – while they had no control over, or physical access to, those areas.

Thank you.