



ICRC

Statement on the report of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Extension Requests)

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Meeting of States Parties
Geneva, 26-30 November 2018**

Thank you Madam Chair,

The ICRC was not in a position to comment on the specific extension requests submitted to this meeting. However, the ICRC would like to provide some general thoughts and reflections as a contribution to the work of this meeting of the States Parties.

At the outset, the ICRC commends the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for its work. As seen in its report, the Committee has approached its work thoroughly and with diligence.

The ICRC notes that 7 States Parties have submitted their extension requests to the 17th Meeting of the States Parties. The ICRC stresses the importance of providing clarity about the progress and remaining challenges in implementation by those States seeking an extension. More essentially, a concrete and measurable plan should be in place so as to allow for a proper assessment of the request and to monitor its implementation in the coming years. This would also hopefully minimize the need for additional extension requests in the future.

The ICRC welcomes the extension request submitted by Ukraine. The ICRC trusts that the government of Ukraine will work vigorously to ensure compliance with its Article 5 obligations. We remain available to support Ukraine in this endeavour, within the limits of our expertise, including in the areas of mine risk reduction and national implementation measures. The ICRC through its Delegation in Ukraine is implementing an extensive programme to reduce the effects of weapon contamination on civilians, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Red Cross.

Thank you.