



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus
Geneva**

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY Mr. CHRISTOS MAKRIYIANNIS, FIRST SECRETARY
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS**

15 November 2021

[CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]

Thank you, Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to express my Delegation's appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for organising our Meeting and to you Mr. President for so efficiently guiding us through our proceedings.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for the excellent work. (We thank you for setting out the Committee's preliminary observations regarding Cyprus, which we can endorse).

With regards to the request we have submitted for a further three years extension to the current deadline, I will be brief as there is not much that needs to be said. Our request is straightforward. Unfortunately, the circumstances on the ground that were found by the States-Parties to constitute legitimate justification for the initial request back in 2012, and its subsequent renewals in 2015 and 2018, remain unchanged.

In particular, the Authorities of the Republic of Cyprus continue to be forcefully prevented from exercising effective control over a large area of the sovereign territory in the northern part of the island, which is occupied by Turkey, rendering it impossible to verify the status of known or suspected anti-personnel minefields in this area. We are thus obliged to seek for a further 3-year extension and I would like to refer in this respect to the letter addressed by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus in Geneva to the President of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, dated 9 February 2021.

In closing, I wish to thank the Chairs and the members of the Committees as well as the ISU for the preparation of this Meeting under the current difficult and volatile circumstances.

I thank you.