

**Eritrea's non-submission of Extension Request – ICBL Comments**  
**19th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, 15-19 November 2021**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The ICBL is gravely concerned by Eritrea's ongoing violation of the treaty.

We are also greatly disappointed by Eritrea's lack of communication and engagement and its absence at the meeting today.

We thank the Committee on Art. 5, the Presidency, the ISU, and all other partners for the outreach vis-à-vis Eritrea and we thank all States Parties and partners who expressed their concern today.

Indeed, Eritrea is in *formal* non-compliance with the treaty since 1 January this year by having failed to request a new deadline under Art. 5. In addition, Eritrea has reported no progress in mine clearance or land release since 2014, which means *de facto* non-compliance with its Article 5 obligations to clear all contamination *as soon as possible*.

We believe it is time for the States Parties to invoke Art. 8 of the treaty on 'facilitation and clarification of compliance'. This meeting should indeed adopt concrete next steps and measures, with timelines, aimed at protecting the integrity of the treaty and bringing Eritrea back into full compliance as soon as possible. Should these steps yield no desired results, States Parties should next consider authorizing a fact-finding mission to Eritrea.

Thank you.