



Mine Action Review statement on Eritrea

Agenda Item 9: Presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests

APMBC Twentieth Meeting of States Parties, 21–25 November 2022

Thank you, Mr. President.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Mine Action Review.

Despite the best efforts of the current and previous presidencies of the Treaty and other members of the Convention officeholders, to establish a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea regarding its Article 5 obligations, Eritrea has unfortunately failed to re-engage with the Convention and has not submitted a request to extend its Article 5 deadline.

Eritrea has now been in critical violation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for nearly two years, since its Article 5 deadline expired on 31 December 2020. While we still hope to hear from Eritrea early this week and for it to submit the long overdue request for consideration, if it does not, States Parties must now agree at this Twentieth Meeting of States Parties, to formally engage the compliance procedure laid down in Article 8 of the Convention and submit, through the UN Secretary-General, a request for clarification to Eritrea.

Should Eritrea fail to respond, or to respond adequately, a compulsory fact-finding mission may be authorised by the next Meeting of States Parties or a Special Meeting of the States Parties.

Invoking Article 8, while regrettable, is also essential in order to uphold the integrity of the Convention.

Thank you.