

**Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the
Request for extension submitted by Argentina**

Mr. President (Chair),

The Committee noted with satisfaction that Argentina had submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee.

- On 25 March 2022, Argentina submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 January 2023 deadline.
- On 15 June 2022, the Committee wrote to Argentina requesting additional information and clarity on key areas of its request.
- Argentina's request is for three years (until 1 March 2026).

In analysing Argentina's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee.

The request submitted in 2022 indicates that circumstances that made it necessary for Argentina to request an extension in 2019 remain unchanged.

The request also recalls the Interpretive Declaration that the Argentine Republic formulated at the time of ratifying the Convention¹.

The request indicates that calls from Argentina to the United Kingdom in 2020 to conclude with implementation in a cooperative manner, under the sovereignty formula and for strictly humanitarian ends, have been rejected.

In this regard, the Committee noted that given the circumstances highlighted by Argentina which prevent it from declaring completion and taking into account the information contained in the document mentioned in the Final Report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties concerning the work undertaken to address contamination in the area in question, Argentina may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested.

The Committee noted the importance of seeking a cooperative solution to the current impasse and assumes that, during the period leading to the requested extended deadline, Argentina would continue to evaluate the situation and form a fresh opinion as to whether matters have evolved so that Argentina is, or may in the future be, in a position to declare completion of its obligations under Article 5.

The Committee noted the importance of Argentina keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of efforts in this regard and other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5.

¹ https://treaties.unoda.org/a/mine_ban/argentina/RAT/un