

Decision on the request submitted by Argentina for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

1. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Argentina for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2026.
2. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, as in past request for extension of Article 5 deadlines submitted by Argentina, Argentina has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes the ability of Argentina to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that Argentina has indicated that it “does not exercise territorial control over the land to be demined.”
3. The Meeting noted the importance of Argentina seeking a cooperative solution to the current impasse. The Meeting highlighted the importance of Argentina, during the period leading to the requested extended deadline, continuing to evaluate the situation and make an assessment 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.
4. The Meeting 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 (APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.6), Argentina may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested.
5. The Meeting further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas, when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.
6. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland disassociated¹ itself from this decision and submitted a position as contained in document [Symbol] in connection with the request submitted by Argentina.

¹ Recalling the announcement made during the 19th Meeting of States Parties, the United Kingdom noted that there is no known or suspected contamination on the Islands and that in their view no Article 5 obligation can exist in the absence of mined areas.