



International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Statement on Article 5 Implementation

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meeting of States Parties

Geneva, 20-22 June 2022

At the outset, the ICRC commends the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the Convention's Implementation Support Unit for their work with diligence and thoroughness. The ICRC also commends the Committee for its commitment to continue strengthening the Article 5 extension request process and adherence to the relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan, further to the final report of the 19th Meeting of the States Parties.

The ICRC welcomes this highly timely discussion at the intersessional meeting. In our view, strengthening the Article 5 extension request process is key to accelerating the implementation of mine clearance and risk education obligations under Article 5 of the Convention, and has important humanitarian implications in States Parties affected by mine contamination. In this light, the exercise of strengthening the process would benefit from being inclusive, by involving and consulting all relevant stakeholders, in particular affected States.

A starting point to do so is to ensure the vigorous implementation of the relevant action points in the Oslo Action Plan. Notably, extension requests should be submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the process established at previous meetings of the States Parties, including by providing detailed, costed, multi-year plans for both clearance and mine risk reduction and education activities as required by Actions #23 and #24 of the Oslo Action Plan.

As reiterated in the final report of the 19th Meeting of the States Parties, in light of the valuable expertise and experience that international organizations, civil society organizations and operational partners bring to mine action, it would be highly desirable for the Convention's machinery to involve such partners at the earliest possible stage of any extension request process, and draw on inputs from them throughout the process.

We also wish to stress that in order for the Convention's community to hold to the commitment towards achieving the goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines, resources and political attention, both national and international, must be sustained and in some instances increased.

Increased national ownership as well as in-country coordination between national mine action authorities, donors and international and national demining actors must be strengthened. This would also hopefully minimize the need for additional extension requests in the future.

To conclude, the ICRC, together with the broader International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, stand ready to support concerned States Parties and the Convention's machinery in stepping up efforts to strengthen the extension request process and the implementation of the Oslo Action plan, with a view to ensuring effective implementation of mine clearance and risk education obligations.

Thank you.