



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
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The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and has the honour to submit the request for extension of Ukraine's mine clearance deadline under Article 5 of the Convention.

Since the start of the Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2014, addressing the threats related to landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices has been among the top priorities for Ukraine. The Government of Ukraine continues to pay special attention to the implementation of mine action international standards in order to ensure safe and consistent mine action operations.

Since the beginning of the Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 the magnitude of mine contamination has increased dramatically, turning Ukraine into one of the most mine-contaminated countries in the world. According to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, the territory of Ukraine, which is now considered contaminated, is about 174,000 square km, which constitutes 30% of the entire territory of the country. The real scale of contamination cannot be examined due to the continuing hostilities.

The Russian Federation widely uses antipersonnel landmines in Ukraine in full defiance of norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law, causing adverse humanitarian consequences and creating explosive hazards for civilians, which impede security, stability, humanitarian and development efforts.

Due to the continuous Russian war of aggression, Ukraine is not able to submit an extension request containing full information on the scale of mine contamination of its territory and a detailed plan for addressing this issue. Ukraine, therefore, submits a request for an extension of its Article 5 obligations for a period of ten years, from March 2023 to March 2033, with available information (enclosed).

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While submitting the request for an extension of the deadline for the fulfillment of its obligations under Article 5 for 10 years Ukraine proceeds from the need to ensure sufficient time for ending foreign invasion, liberating the occupied territories and for launching sustainable mine clearance operations.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation the assurances of its highest consideration and expects the States Parties' approval of Ukraine's request.

Enclosure: 4 pages.



Committee on Article 5 Implementation
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
CC: Implementation Support Unit

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Information
concerning the submission of an application for an extension of the deadline for
Ukraine to fulfill its obligations under Article 5 "Destroying anti-personnel
mines in mined areas" of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their
Destruction

Introduction

On June 1, 2006, Ukraine became a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (hereinafter referred to as the Ottawa Convention). By joining the Ottawa Convention, Ukraine undertook to get rid of the stockpiles of anti-personnel mines that existed at that time, which had been stored in the arsenals of the Armed Forces of Ukraine since the time of the Soviet Union.

I. Time frame for the requested extension of Ukraine's implementation of its obligations under Article 5 "Destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas" of the Ottawa Convention

In connection with the ongoing large-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, it is proposed to extend the deadline for Ukraine to implement its obligations under Article 5 "Destroying anti-personnel mines in mined areas" of the Ottawa Convention by 10 years.

II. Rationale for the requested extension of the deadline for Ukraine to implement its obligations under Article 5 "Destroying anti-personnel mines in mined areas" of the Ottawa Convention

1. At the time of Ukraine's ratification of the Ottawa Convention and its entry into force in 2006, Ukraine did not have any mined areas that required clearance. In the annual reports for 2006-2013, Ukraine reported the absence of mined areas.

In 2014, as a result of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the situation changed in a way that required Ukraine to implement the provisions of Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention. This change was due to the fact that the armed formations of the occupation administration of the Russian Federation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions began to use anti-personnel mines. The appearance of mined areas in the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions was presented in annual reports since 2014 to 2021.

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine, using all types of weapons. Russian troops are carrying out massive air and missile strikes on peaceful settlements throughout the territory of Ukraine. The Russian army has repeatedly used means of remote mining, namely cluster mines.

After the liberation of populated areas from occupation Ukrainian demining specialists started to detect a large number of anti-personnel mines POM-2, POM-3, PFM-1S, PMN-2, PMN-3, OZM-72 and improvised explosive devices.

Potentially contaminated are all territories on which active hostilities were or are being conducted, which are under temporary occupation, and territories on which air and missile strikes were carried out. To date, approximately 174,000 square kilometers need to be surveyed, of which 160,000 square kilometers are land, 14,000 square kilometers are sea water areas (including 78,000 square kilometers in temporarily

occupied territories). The current state of mine pollution of the territory of Ukraine is shown in Figure 1

Figure 1



To date, only about 50 square kilometers of all potentially contaminated territories have been identified as minefields or territories contaminated with explosive objects, non-technical survey of de-occupied territories continues. The main efforts are focused on demining critical infrastructure facilities and population centers, in order to ensure safe access of the population of the liberated territories to their own homes and basic needs. The territorial distribution of the identified areas contaminated by mines and explosive objects with remnants of war is shown in Table 1.

Distribution of identified areas contaminated by mines in the de-occupied territories

Region	Number of dangerous lots	Total area, square meters
Kyiv	127	20932413,81
Minefield	92	10501741,84
Former battleground	35	10430671,97
Mykolaiv	24	4019322,663
Minefield	8	514855,9289
Former battleground	16	3504466,734

Sumy	14	567959,6552
Minefield	11	455227
Former battleground	3	112732,6552
Kharkiv	49	5915613,429
Minefield	32	4423439,705
Former battleground	17	1492173,724
Chernihiv	135	18780520,38
Minefield	49	4674440,349
Former battleground	86	14106080,03
Kherson	Non-technical survey was not carried out	
Total number	349	50215829,94

There is a legal framework in Ukraine for the functioning of the mine action system, namely:

Law of Ukraine "On Mine Action in Ukraine";

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On the establishment of the National Authority for Mine Action";

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Procedure for Keeping Records of Mine Action Operators";

National standard DSTU 8820:2018 "Mine protection activity. Management processes. Substantive provisions".

In order to coordinate mine countermeasures, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine established the National Mine Countermeasures Authority, which operates on a collegial basis and is chaired by the Minister of Defense of Ukraine.

In addition, the Mine Action Center of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (as part of the State Special Transport Service) and the Center for Humanitarian Demining of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine have been formed and are operating as assigned.

In order to increase the efficiency of the mine action system in Ukraine, an effective system of demining quality management has been created, which includes the certification of mine action operators and the control of demining quality.

To implement quality management measures, the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine accredited the Mine Action Center of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and the Center for Humanitarian Demining of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine as demining operator certification bodies and demining quality inspection bodies.

Units from the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the State Special Transport Service, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, the National Police of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine, and the State Border Service of Ukraine are involved in demining operations in Ukraine, which primarily perform the tasks of prompt response to detection explosive objects and demining of infrastructure facilities.

To carry out non-technical/technical survey of de-occupied territories (in areas where the security situation allows) and demining, mine action operators are involved, who are certified in accordance with the requirements of the legislation of Ukraine and

are allowed to perform mine action tasks. International demining NGOs - The Halo Trust, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Swiss Fund for Mine Action (FSD) and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) are currently involved in demining activities. These organizations carry out their activities exclusively at the expense of financing by donors.

In addition, national non-governmental operators Ukroboronservice, "Demining Solutions" and "GK Group" joined the implementation of mine countermeasures, which carry out activities at the expense of their own financial income.

In the liberated territories, in accordance with the National Standard DSTU 8820:2018 "Mine protection activity. Management processes. Basic Provisions" non-technical, technical inspection of potentially dangerous areas for the presence of mines and explosive objects and their marking are carried out. Demining works have begun in the areas identified as potentially dangerous.

2. Financial costs for the implementation of measures to destroy anti-personnel mines in mined areas are carried out within the budget allocations provided for the central executive authorities and military formations for the corresponding budget period.

The amount of expenditures for the implementation of the specified measures will be subject to clarification during the drafting of the State Budget of Ukraine for the relevant year within the total amount of funding for the specified purposes.

The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine is working on providing demining units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the State Special Transport Service with modern means of searching for explosive objects through centralized purchases, as well as through logistical assistance from donor states and international organizations.

In addition, work is underway to create government mine action operators in the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine with an estimated number of up to 5,000 people, which will significantly increase Ukraine's ability to fulfill its obligations under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention.

However, there is a need to equip the specified humanitarian demining units, as part of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the State Special Transport Service, with the following types of equipment/equipment:

- by means of transportation of personnel and transportation of explosive materials;

- mine detectors of the Vallone VMC type;

- means of protection for sappers (protective aprons, protective visors).

In addition, it is important to provide assistance in the preparation of sappers to carry out humanitarian demining tasks.