

Intersessional Meeting
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 19-21 June 2023

Lithuania
Statement on Mine Clearance (Article 5)

Mr. Chair,

Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and wishes to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

We thank the Committee for its work with regard to the implementation of Article 5 and related mine clearance actions of the Oslo Action Plan.

We reiterate our condemnation in the strongest possible terms of Russia's illegal, unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. This unlawful aggression violates Ukraine's sovereignty and poses a serious threat to regional and global security. We especially condemn Russia's use of anti-personnel landmines that pose a long-lasting threat, cause harm to civilians and impede humanitarian and recovery efforts.

Recent destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant dam is a flagrant disrespect for international humanitarian law. Russia bears responsibility for this technological and ecological disaster with devastating consequences for thousands of innocent civilians and all ecosystem in the region. It is particularly appalling that the flood waters dislodged landmines from Russian occupied territories, which became floating mines posing grave danger and risk of explosion upon contact with those fleeing their homes and seeking safety.

We call on Russia to stop its war of aggression, immediately withdraw all its military forces from the entire territory of Ukraine and respect international law. Lithuania actively supports the work of the International Criminal Court and measures to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes of international concern.

We commend the Ukrainian people's strength, courage and resistance to withstand Russia's aggression and stand with them in firm solidarity. Lithuania also commends Ukraine's efforts in mine clearance while defending their own territory, as well as cooperation and dialogue with the relevant Committees under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Thank you.