

Speech at the intersessional meeting of experts of the States Parties on the presentation of the request for extension of the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Slide 1

Dear Mr. President, dear participants of the meeting! On behalf of the National Mine Action Authority of Ukraine, we would like to express our respect to the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The Secretariat of the National Mine Action Authority, in order to inform the international community, has prepared request regarding of the extension of the implementation of Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention

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On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, using all types of weapons, including those prohibited by the Ottawa Convention, which led to the contamination of a large part of the territory of Ukraine with mines and explosive remnants of war. All territories where active hostilities have been conducted or are ongoing, which are under temporary occupation, and territories that have been subject to air, missile and artillery strikes are considered potentially contaminated. Today, approximately 160,000 square kilometers of land and 14,000 square kilometers of sea areas need to be surveyed for explosive hazards.

The 160,000 square kilometers include areas that have been subject to military operations, rocket and bomb attacks, and areas under temporary occupation.

A full assessment of the contamination can be carried out after the Russian aggression is repelled and sovereignty over the entire territory of Ukraine is restored. The contamination of the territory with explosive remnants of war has a significant impact on the safety of civilians, agriculture, industry and the overall socio-economic growth in the country. In total, 15 million people in Ukraine are indirect beneficiaries of mine action.

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The dense contamination of territories with explosive objects due to the aggression of the Russian Federation and its violation of the laws of war creates a high risk of incidents for the civilian population, including during agricultural activities. According to the data received by the Secretariat of the National Mine Action Authority, since February 24, 311 mine-related incidents have occurred, affecting 489 people, including 165 people (including 7 children) and 324 people (including 33 children). Unfortunately, the statistics on the victims continue to increase and need to be updated daily.

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the Russian Federation armed forces, indiscriminately and massively, use the full range of available aviation, missile, artillery and multiple launch rocket system munitions against peaceful cities, critical infrastructure and agricultural land, including munitions equipped with remote-controlled anti-personnel mines. Ukrainian sappers detect and neutralize banned POM-2, the newest POM-3, the so-called Medallion, PTM-3, PTM-4, and PFM-1S. A derivative danger from the use of remote mining is that self-destruct mechanisms do not work in 20-30 cases, and the presence of seismic target sensors and magnetic field sensors in modern Russian mines does not allow for their search and destruction by conventional means, but requires the use of expensive remote demining equipment. Russian mines, both anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, have plastic casings, which significantly complicates their search and ensures their long-term operation.

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The Armed Forces of the Russian Federation widely use an arsenal of conventional landmines, which are prohibited by the Ottawa Convention and Protocol II of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. Thus, today, due to Russia's actions, entire areas of Ukraine's territory are contaminated with minefields of PMN-4 (modern Russian anti-personnel mines), PMN-2, PMN-3, in addition to settlements, forests, and roads contaminated

with mines of the MON and OZM types, which are installed on tripwires. The use of the above mines is a gross violation of Protocol II. In addition to anti-personnel mines, vast areas are mined with TM-62 anti-tank mines with traps laid with the use of anti-personnel mines. An important statistical indicator that affects the duration of demining is that when the Russian occupiers mine the area, more than 30% of the mines are set in a non-removable state, including with the use of booby traps.

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After deoccupation, the Ukrainian defense forces have discovered a large number of improvised explosive devices and booby traps, many of which were installed in residential areas, vehicles, critical infrastructure, and even food. There have also been cases of mined bodies, including civilians and even children.

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Russian armed forces are mining Ukraine's territorial waters. Cases of sea mines being washed up on the Ukrainian coast have become more frequent, and other countries in the Black Sea region are beginning to face this problem. In addition, the terrorist act committed by Russia by blowing up the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant dam led to uncontrolled migration of mines that were laid by the aggressor on the left bank of the Dnipro River, which put territories outside the area of hostilities in danger. Mine contamination of the flooded area will remain a problem for many years to come.

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The socio-economic and humanitarian needs of the population in the liberated territories determine the top priority of demining at power supply, heat supply, water supply facilities, transport infrastructure, public places and agricultural land. Engineering and demining units and groups of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the State Special Transport Service and the National Guard of Ukraine, pyrotechnic units of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine and explosive groups of the National Police of Ukraine are involved in these works. Certified mine action operators are also actively involved in demining. According to demining experts, the implementation of measures

to quickly respond to threats from explosive devices can take from three to five years, and this is without taking into account the circumstances that exist in the temporarily occupied territories.

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The problem of contamination of the territories with explosive ordnance that Ukraine has faced as a result of Russian aggression is comparable to the scale that swept Europe after World War 2, so the resource needs of demining specialists is high. Looking on humanitarian demining on such scale, the Government of Ukraine has decided to increase Ukraine's capacity by increasing the number of pyrotechnic units of the SES up to 1500 people and forming humanitarian demining units within the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the State Special Transport Service with a total number of up to 5000 people. However, the formation of these units requires the support of the international community in equipping with vehicles, modern explosive ordnance detection equipment, remote-controlled mechanized demining equipment, and sapper protection equipment.

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Overcoming the consequences of mine contamination of the territory of Ukraine by the Russian Federation requires a long time and significant material resources. Based on this, Ukraine has prepared and submitted to the States Parties a request for an extension of the deadline for fulfilling its obligations under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention. Ukraine expresses its sincere gratitude to all the countries that have contributed to the support and assistance at such a difficult time for our country, which is engaged in a war for independence and sovereignty. It is also a war for a civilizational choice: Ukraine is defending its belonging to European civilization and, at the same time, the fundamental values, rights and freedoms that underpin global morality. We are confident that we will win and together we will be able to make our land safe again. Thank you for your attention!



**Secretariat of National Mine
Action Authority**

Request for extension of Article 5 deadlines

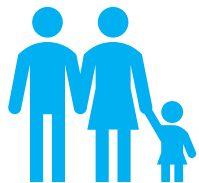




On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine with the use of all types of weapons



160 000 sq. km of potentially contaminated lands and 14 000 sq. km of water areas must be surveyed



15 million people are beneficiaries of MA

Almost 5 million people live near hazardous areas



Incidents with mine

Number of accidents

311

Total victims

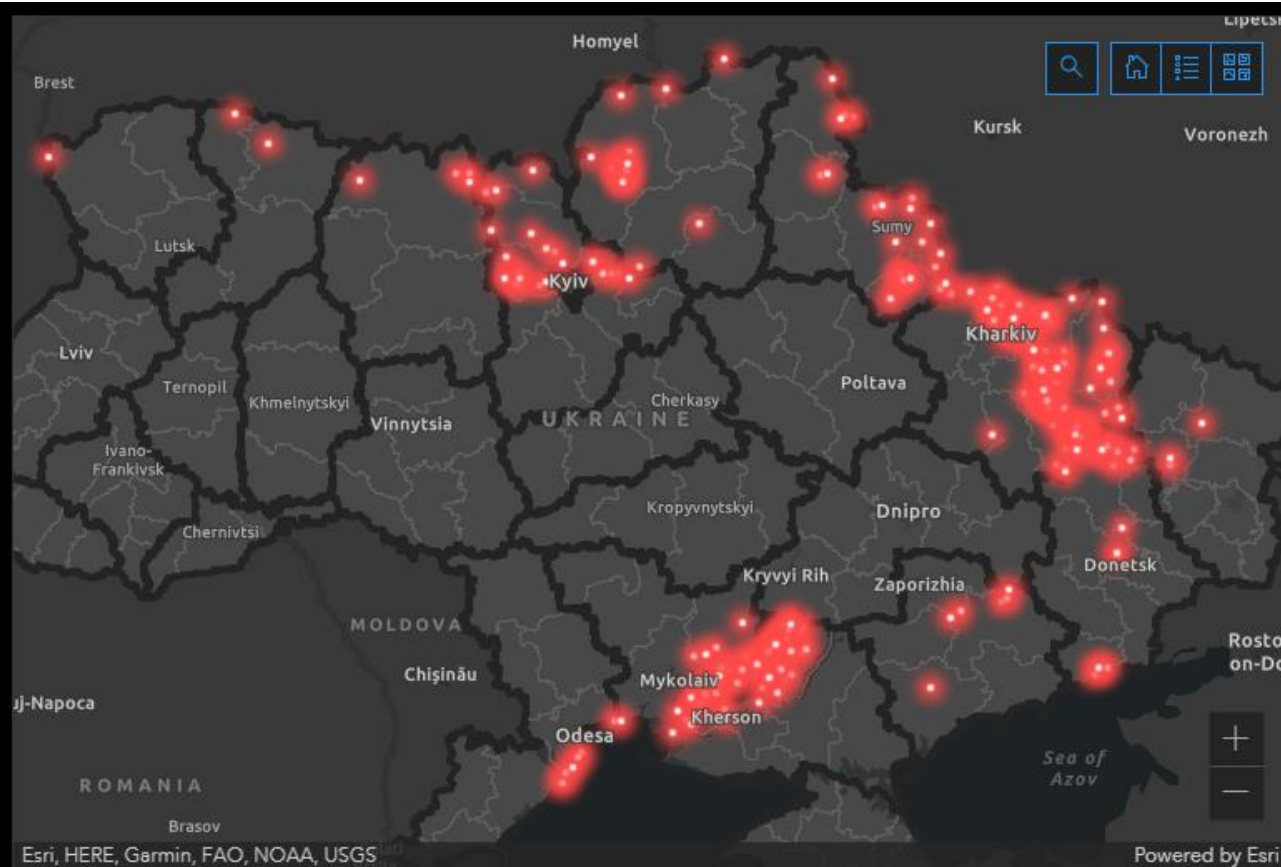
489

Killed

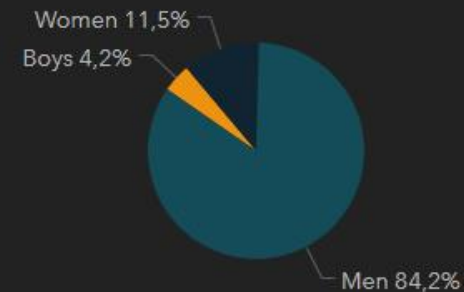
165

Injured

324



Killed, by sex and age



Injured, by sex and age



DANGER



Remotely delivered mines used by russia



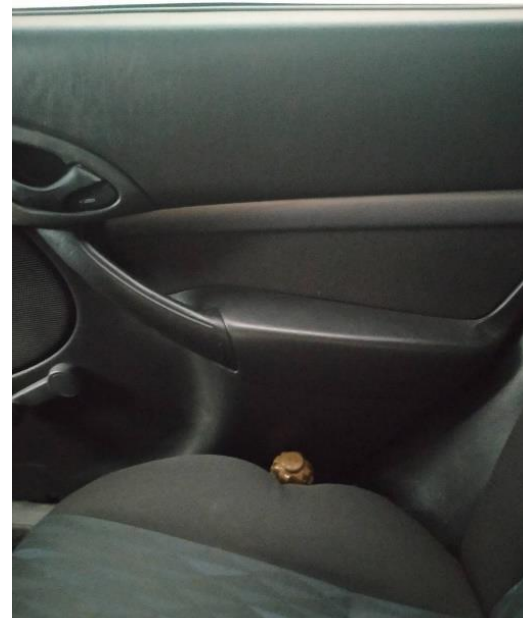


CONVENTIONAL LANDMINES, INCLUDING THOSE PROHIBITED BY THE CONVENTIONS, USED BY RUSSIA





A large number of improvised explosive devices and booby traps planted by the russian military were found



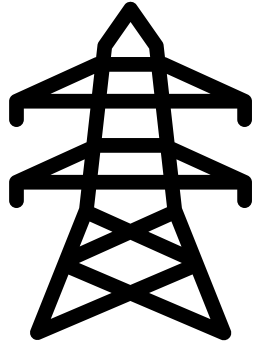


EO Contamination due demolition of Kakhovska dump by Russia.

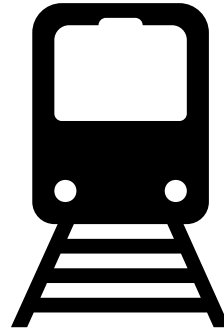




Priority areas for demining



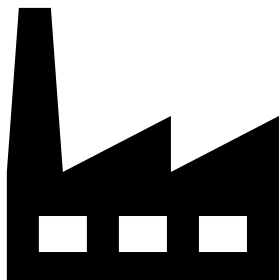
Electricity, water and heating infrastructure



Transport infrastructure



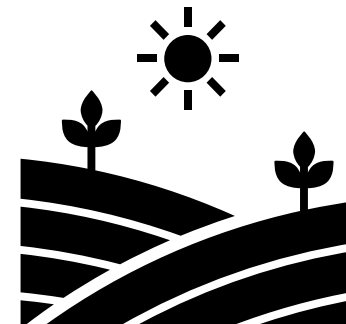
Residential areas



Critical industries



Governmental structures



Agricultural lands





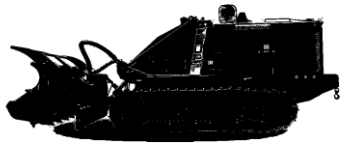
NEEDS IN EQUIPMENT FOR UNITS INVOLVED IN HUMANITARIAN DEMINING



Vehicles for personnel



Vehicles for EOD transportation



Machines and robot systems



Metal detectors, EOD and demining kits



Armed Forces – 3 HD Bat. (200 teams, 1000 per.)



State special transport service – 1 HD center, 5 HD bat. (800 teams, 4000 per.)



SESU – 300 teams (1500 per.)



Protective suits, demining protection kits



5000 personnel should be trained for EOD and demining activities



Thank you for your attention!

