

## The GICHD remarks on the Article 5 extension request submitted by Ukraine

Intersessional meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Geneva, June 2023

The GICHD would like to congratulate the government of Ukraine on submitting an Article 5 extension request.

We recognize that the security situation in Ukraine is very unstable, that the on-going hostilities are continuing to result in new contamination which is further hampering the national authority's ability to plan and implement mine action activities, including systematic survey and clearance operations.

This of course makes it difficult for Ukraine to develop an evidence-based and costed workplan in line with Action #19 of the of Oslo Action Plan. We are therefore pleased to note that Ukraine does not object to the Article 5 Committee's proposal to reduce the requested extension from 10 to 5 years. During this time further steps can be taken to achieve greater clarity.

Despite the prevailing challenges, significant effort is clearly being placed to identify, map and report all types of contamination across Ukraine following the principles outlined in IMAS. This is in keeping with the spirit of Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan, and it is notable that a substantial number of confirmed and suspected hazardous areas have already been identified and recorded in Ukraine's Information Management System for Mine Action.

The extension request could be strengthened by inclusion of details on both the currently available capacity to conduct Non-Technical Survey in areas that are accessible, as well as any plans to further strengthen that capacity. Additional information regarding the type of explosive contamination already identified as confirmed or suspect hazardous areas, for example by disaggregating anti-personnel and anti-vehicle minefields, would also support more accurate planning and projections.

We note that the initial request did not include information relating to Risk Education activities and plans, or data relating to the number of accidents or victims. However, the additional information provided to the Article 5 Committee does contain some details relevant to these issues, in line with Action #24 and Action #35 of the OAP.

Ukraine has a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security which mentions mine action. We feel that the extension request could usefully make reference to this, especially in relation to the plans to establish government mine action operators including the recruitment and training of an additional 5,000 personnel – as both the Women Peace and Security agenda and the Oslo Action Plan encourage the participation of women in mine action.

Finally, the GICHD would like to reaffirm its commitment to supporting Ukraine on its path to eventual completion.

Thank you