



**Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on
their Destruction**

25-29 November 2024

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Statement by Ireland

**Review of the operation and status of the Convention:
Clearing mined areas**

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

President,

We join others in commending you for your prioritisation of and efforts towards surveying, mine clearance, risk education, and risk reduction: this is Article 5 implementation in action. Article 5 is paramount for ensuring no future victims and alleviating continued suffering in mine-affected communities.

We commend the work undertaken by States Parties with obligations under Article 5. We welcome the updates provided on their route towards Article 5 completion, in particular the efforts made with regard to integrating gender and the diverse needs of mine affected communities, as well as environmental considerations, in their implementation efforts.

President,

When we met in Oslo in 2019, States Parties recognised that while considerable progress has been made in addressing mined areas, there was a need to accelerate the pace of survey and clearance activities achieve as much progress as possible to time-bound Article 5 obligations by 2025. Since then, we welcome the reported completion of implementation of Article 5 by Chile and the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, due to newly mined areas and newly discovered contaminated areas, we must again call for strengthened efforts to accelerate the pace of survey and clearance activities, to end unnecessary suffering and promote sustainable development.

We recognise the various obstacles and challenges that affected states face in meeting their Article 5 obligations, including financial resource constraints, security concerns, border challenges, topography, matters concerning access to contaminated areas, and interruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

President,

Unfortunately, over the Convention's history, we have witnessed an increase in repeated extensions, missed deadlines, delayed implementation, and non-implementation of commitments. Article 5 extension requests should be an exceptional measure, and States should make every effort to complete their obligations under the Treaty in full and on time. The failure to implement clearance obligations under the Treaty, and to regularly communicate progress, has significant humanitarian and socio-economic impacts.

As set out in action 18 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan, extension requests should contain detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period, as well as plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities. Providing such detail gives States Parties confidence that the extension request is realistic and implementable. It strengthens the Treaty as a whole.

Taking into account recommendations 3 and 5 from the paper produced by the Committee last year, as well as the high number of incoming extension requests, we see value in the creation of an Article 5 informal support group, composed of donors, practitioners, experts and other stakeholders. Benefits of the group include that it would serve to support affected States Parties in preparing and submitting extension requests and provide an inclusive platform for dialogue between all relevant stakeholders. It would also ensure better alignment of work plans with the necessary funding, including through engaging with the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

We believe the Article 5 informal support group would represent a tangible step towards adding action to our words regarding accelerating clearance efforts, and would be a positive concrete outcome of this Review Conference.

President,

We reiterate our appreciation for your efforts on enhancing the implementation of Article 5, as well as the efforts of the Committee. We hope that this Review Conference makes a positive step forwards towards this important obligation, with a view to achieving a world free of landmines.