

Analysis of the request submitted by Argentina for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

(Algeria, Norway, Thailand (Chair))¹

1. Argentina ratified the Convention on 14 September 1999. The Convention entered into force for Argentina on 1 March 2000. In its initial transparency report submitted on 31 August 2000, Argentina reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Argentina was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 March 2010. Since this time, Argentina submitted requests for extension to the Second Review Conference in 2009, the Fourth Review Conference in 2019, and the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) in 2022. On each occasion, the Review Conferences and Meeting of the States Parties agreed to grant Argentina its request for extension. The request for extension granted to Argentina by the 20MSP was for three years, until 1 March 2026.
2. In granting the request, the 20MSP highlighted in its decision that Argentina expressed that the sole circumstance which impeded the ability of Argentina to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it had reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Argentina “does not exercise territorial control over the land to be demined”. The 20MSP further noted the importance of Argentina seeking a cooperative solution to the current impasse and highlighted the importance of Argentina, during the period leading to the requested extended deadline, continuing to evaluate the situation and make an assessment as to whether matters have evolved so that Argentina is, or may in the future be, in a position to declare completion of its obligations under Article 5. The 20MSP further noted the importance of Argentina keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of efforts in this regard and other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5.
3. On 11 March 2025, Argentina submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 March 2026 deadline. On 27 June 2025, the Committee wrote to Argentina requesting additional information and clarity on key areas of its request. On 29 July 2025, Argentina submitted to the Committee additional clarification in response to the Committee’s questions. Argentina’s request is for three years, until 1 March 2029. The Committee noted that Argentina had submitted the request in accordance with the process established by the States Parties and has engaged in a fruitful discussion with the Committee on matters related to the extension request.
4. As in Argentina’s previous request, the request indicates that circumstances that made it necessary for Argentina to request an extension remain unchanged. The request also recalls the Interpretive Declaration that the Argentine Republic formulated at the time of ratifying the Convention. The request and the additional information submitted by Argentina indicates that calls from Argentina to the United Kingdom in 2019, 2020 and 2024 to conclude with

¹ The United Kingdom is a member of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. In accordance with the working methods related to extension requests and conflict of interest, the United Kingdom has recused itself from the analysis of Argentina’s request.

implementation in a cooperative manner, under the sovereignty formula and for strictly humanitarian ends, have been rejected. The request also indicates that Argentina remains unable to carry out verification and declare fulfilment of its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention.

5. The Committee noted, as in previous decisions, the importance of continuing to seek a cooperative solution to the current impasse and assumes that, during the period leading to the requested extended deadline, Argentina would continue to evaluate the situation, taking into account information contained in the relevant documents and decisions adopted by the States Parties regarding Argentina's implementation of Article 5, and form a fresh opinion as to whether matters have evolved so that Argentina is, or may in the future be, in a position to proceed with completion of its obligations under Article 5. The Committee noted the importance of Argentina keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of efforts in this regard and other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5.