

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

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Argentina for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2029.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as in past request for extension of Article 5 deadlines submitted by Argentina, Argentina has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes the ability of Argentina to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that Argentina has indicated that it “does not exercise territorial control over the land to be demined.”
3. The Meeting noted, as in previous decisions, the importance of Argentina 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.
4. The Meeting further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas, when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.^{1 2}

¹ Recalling the announcement made during the Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, the United Kingdom noted that there is no known or suspected contamination on the Islands and that in their view no Article 5 obligation can exist in the absence of mined areas as contained in the UK’s Declaration of Completion APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.6

² Argentina recalled its position on the question as stated in APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.3 (19 November 2021), APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.8 (17 December 2021) and its current extension request APLC/MSP.22/2025/WP.1 (10 October 2021).