

**Article 5 implementation
Statement Austria**

Mr, Chair,

Austria fully aligns herself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In a national capacity allow me to add the following remarks.

We thank the Committee for the update on the extension requests and the committee members for their dedicated work throughout the year. I also wish to thank you for the not only very important but also interesting panel. Article 5 implementation is obviously key to reach our goal of ending the harm caused by antipersonnel mines. In this regard we welcome the updates on progress made during this agenda item.

We consider the cooperative spirit of the Convention as one of its strengths in implementation. The open exchange between concerned states and the committee throughout the year is a key element contributing to the effectiveness on the ground of our Convention. We believe that the established mechanisms of our Convention provide the necessary flexibility to address issues of concern with regard to the implementation of Article 5 and we hope to continue work together in an open manner towards completion.

Austria fully recognises the difficult challenges Ukraine is facing since February 2014 and Austria firmly supports Ukraine in this regard. Precisely because of these challenges it is of concern to Austria that the deadline for submission of an extension request has elapsed.

We are encouraged to hear that there will be soon a visit of the committee in Kiev regarding this matter. As we did at the last meetings, we strongly encourage Ukraine to follow established practice and to seize the opportunity of this meeting to submit an extension request without further delay in order to return to compliance with Article 5.

I thank you.