

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Committee on Article 5 implementation for their sterling work. We have no problem in endorsing the Committee's Preliminary observations with regard to Cyprus.

Concerning the request we have submitted for a further three years extension to the current deadline, there is not much that needs to be said. Indeed, the reason behind the request is straight forward. Unfortunately, the circumstances on the ground that were found by the States-Parties to constitute a legitimate justification for the initial request back in 2012, and its subsequent renewal in 2015, continue to exist unchanged. Namely, the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus are still being forcefully prevented from exercising effective control over a large area of their sovereign territory in the northern part of the island which is occupied by Turkey, rendering it impossible to verify the status of known or suspected mine fields in this area. I refer you further to the relevant letter addressed by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, dated 2nd February 2018.

Allow me Mr. President, before closing, to congratulate you and your team, the Chairs and members of all Committees and the ISU, for the efficient and timely preparation of this intersessional meeting.

I thank you.