

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

UNDER ITEM 2c OF THE AGENDA

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for its good work and, in particular, for the analysis of the request submitted by Cyprus, which we fully endorse.

With regard to the substance of the request, we do not feel that there is a need for lengthy explanations at this stage, as the reasons behind its submittal are quite straightforward. Unfortunately, the circumstances on the ground in Cyprus that formed the basis of the initial request in 2012 and that were subsequently deemed sufficient by the 12th Meeting of the State Parties to grant the initial 3-year extension, continue to exist unchanged. More precisely, the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus are still forcefully prevented from exercising effective control over a large area of the country's sovereign territory in the northern part of the island, rendering it impossible to verify or affect the status of known or suspected mine fields within this area.

In the light of ongoing negotiations for a settlement of the Cyprus question, I feel it is pertinent to leave it at this, adding perhaps only the sincere hope of my government that this will in fact be the last circumstance when there is a need for a request to be submitted for an extension to this deadline.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, while I still have the floor to congratulate you and your associates, as well as the members of all Committees and of course the staff of the ISU, for the thorough and timely preparations ahead of this Meeting and to wish us all a successful and productive week.

Thank you.