



ICRC

Statement on the report of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Meeting of States Parties Geneva, 30 November - 4 December 2015

The ICRC was not in a position to comment on the specific extension requests submitted to this meeting. However, we wanted to provide some general thoughts and reflections as a contribution to the work of the meeting.

To start, the ICRC would like to commend the Committee for its work. As seen in its report, the Committee has approached its work thoroughly and with diligence. This bodes well for the future work of the Committee and its handling of future extension requests.

As shown in the report of the Committee, only a few States Parties with AP mines on their territory have concrete plans in place to meet their Article 5 requirements and deadlines. To the ICRC, the assessment of extension requests would be an important moment for States Parties to demand clarity about this issue from those States seeking an extension. A concrete and measurable plan is essential so as to allow for a proper assessment of the request and to follow its implementation in coming years. This would also hopefully minimize the need for additional extension requests in the future.

The extension request process has been in place since 2007. It is a clear process with established time frames and deadlines, which most of the States seeking extensions have followed. The ICRC is becoming increasingly concerned about the number of States Parties that have missed their article 5 deadlines and submitted late requests – that is to say, requests for an extension submitted after the initial 10 year deadline has expired. It should be noted that, under the treaty, there are no exceptions for delaying an extension request. Requests must be filed even if there is a situation of armed conflict or instances of instability ongoing within the country.

The extension request process and the proper consideration of requests are important and go to the very credibility of the Convention. Late requests should be rubber stamped have be submitted early enough to allow for a full assessment.

The ICRC highlights these issues and concerns because States Parties have aimed to fulfil the goals of the Convention by 2025. Achieving this will require that the deadlines set out in Article 5 and the extension request process be followed. Or else that goal, which is now 1.5 years closer may not be met.