

Statement on clearance
14th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
2 December 2015



Thank you Mr. President

We have listened with attention to all statements and I would like in particular to refer to the statement made by Ukraine.

Ukraine has informed States Parties of recent and new contamination with antipersonnel landmines, and that clearance activities have been conducted and continue to take place. It is important to note that the deadline for clearance in Ukraine is June 2016.

If Ukraine believes that it might not be able to complete clearance by June 2016, it would certainly be in its interest, and in the interest of the mine ban community, for Ukraine to request a short one-year extension while more clarity on the situation and on the clearance capacity is acquired. Indeed, it is in the interest of this entire community that no States Parties miss their clearance deadline.

By granting such a request, the 14MSP would ensure that Ukraine does not become in violation of its clearance deadline next year, in the event that clearance is not complete.

We encourage further discussions on the issue this week.

As the agenda item on clearance is coming to a close, the ICBL would like to warmly thank Ecuador, Ireland, Zambia and Poland for their intensive and in-depth work advancing matters related to clearance as members of the Committee on Article 5.