

Comments on the situation in Ukraine
Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
18 December 2017



Thank you Mr. Chair.

Ukraine does not have access to areas under its jurisdiction where antipersonnel landmine contamination is suspected or confirmed. This situation is unfortunate and entirely beyond Ukraine's control at the moment. Everybody can understand this, and States Parties have recognized multiple times the challenging situation facing Ukraine.

It is our role to encourage states to complete what might seem like formalities: submission of their annual transparency report or, when necessary, adherence to the mine clearance deadline extension request procedure in order to remain in compliance with the treaty. These 'formalities' are necessary aspects of respect for and adherence to international law.

A lot of progress has been reported in Ukraine towards the establishment of a mine action law and a national mine action program. Survey and clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance in government-controlled areas of eastern Ukraine is underway, largely with international cooperation and assistance provided to Ukraine by fellow States Parties to the Convention. It is regrettable that this laudable progress is overshadowed by the ongoing violation of Article 5.

We urge Ukraine to come back into compliance with Article 5 of the treaty by submitting a request for an extended clearance deadline during the Meeting of States Parties here in Vienna. As soon as the request is granted, the violation of Article 5 will cease.

Thank you.