

16 MSP ANTI PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

Agenda item 11 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

b) Clearing mined areas: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 implementation

Statement Austria

We thank the Chair of the Article 5 Committee for the update on the extension requests. We believe that the strength of our Convention has always been the overall good record of compliance of States Parties and the cooperative spirit of the Convention.

Austria fully aligns itself with the Statement on Art.5 Implementation of the European Union delivered earlier in this debate. Let me add few additional remarks from a national perspective.

In accordance with Action 9 of the Maputo Action Plan we believe it is important that all States Parties adopted the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies. We also encourage States Parties to submit Article 7 transparency reports on an annual basis.

We congratulate Algeria upon its completion of mine clearance obligation under the Convention. On Monday several speakers of the high level segment have underlined the importance of ownership. Algeria is an outstanding example in this regard and we commend the fact that Algeria successfully mobilized sufficient national resource to complete.

We welcome Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, and Zimbabwe timely submission of Article five extension requests in accordance with the Convention and we are looking forward to continue work together towards completion.

As expressed yesterday Austria fully recognizes the difficult challenges Ukraine is facing since February 2014 and we firmly support Ukraine in this regard. Precisely because of these challenges Austria continues to encourage Ukraine to submit an extension request.

Over the last years, Austria has contributed more than 25 million euro for mine action, supporting projects in Bosnia Herzegovina, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Ukraine and many other states. Most recently Austria made contributions to mine clearance in Iraq and Bosnia Herzegovina and for mine awareness & victim assistance to Ukraine.