
**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

**Request for an extension of the deadline for
completing the destruction of Anti-personnel
Mines in accordance with Article 5 of the
Convention****Executive Summary*****Submitted by Ukraine**

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (hereinafter - the Ottawa Convention) entered in force for Ukraine on 01 June 2006. Having joined the Ottawa Convention, Ukraine was obliged to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines (APM), inherited from the former Soviet Union times, which were stockpiled in arsenals of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In 2007, Ukraine declared its full compliance with Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention by submitting its first national report under Article 7 of the Convention. The report indicated that there were no mined areas under Ukraine's jurisdiction or control, containing anti-personnel mines. This was confirmed in yearly national reports from 2007 through 2013. Thus, Ukraine fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention in full by 2013.

**The explanation of reasons for the extension of the deadline under
Article 5**

2. Despite significant security challenges caused by the Russian military aggression, Ukraine remains committed to its international obligations in the field of mine action, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

3. When the Ottawa Convention was ratified by Ukraine in 2005 and when it entered into force for Ukraine in 2006 there were no mined areas, subject for demining activities. The first yearly report of Ukraine covering the period of 01 June 2006 - 31 December 2006 stated

* The present report was submitted after the deadline owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



that Ukraine did not have mined areas. This fact was repeatedly confirmed in following reports until 2014.

4. The aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which started in 2014, created a situation, when Ukraine is faced with the legal obligation to fulfil the provisions of Article 5 of the Convention, and is therefore requesting an extension of its deadline. The reason for that is that armed groups subordinated to the Russian occupation administration, the armed forces of the Russian Federation in temporary occupied territories started planting APMs in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. This situation was shared in Ukraine's national reports of Ukraine in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

5. Preliminary estimates show that about 8% of the lands (totalling to 7 000 square kilometres), which were liberated from the occupation administration in Donetsk and Luhansk regions contain or are suspected to contain APMs, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW). The areas contaminated with the APMs are located along the contact line, where daily intensive fire takes place, which significantly obstructs demining activities.

6. In view of the above, in 2018 a request was submitted to extend the deadline under Article 5 of the Convention for five years until June 1, 2021.

7. Currently, most of the areas contaminated with APMs are along the demarcation line and they are shelled daily by the armed forces of the occupation administration of the Russian Federation in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which greatly complicates the demining process.

8. Besides industrial-made APM in liberated areas, there are also many cases of use of improvised explosive devices (IED) as well as a large number of UXO. The sappers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine discovered PMN-2 mines in the liberated areas in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, formerly occupied by the Russian Federation. These particular type of APMs are regularly used by the Russian Federation's Armed Forces. Ukraine fully destroyed this type of APM as reflected in its annual reports. Starting from 2014 Ukraine repeatedly presented to the international community facts of APM discovered in liberated territories of Ukraine.

The preparation status of work under national demining programs

9. On January 25, 2019, the Law of Ukraine "On Mine Action in Ukraine" came into force and the process of implementation of legislation in the field of mine action is going on. On September 17, 2020 the Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Mine Action in Ukraine" were adopted by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (the Parliament of Ukraine) in order to improve the existing Law and create a legal basis for the development of a national mine action program. The Law provides effective system of mine action with a simplified management and coordination vertical (the National Mine Action Authority, the Mine Action Center and the Center for Humanitarian Demining).

10. In order to ensure a common approach to the implementation of demining tasks in accordance with international mine action standards, the national standard *DSTU P 8820-1: 2018 "Mine action. Management processes. Basic Provisions"* was developed and entered into force on April 1, 2019.

11. In order to coordinate mine action activities, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine developed an Action Plan for the organization of humanitarian demining of the liberated territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

12. In order to increase the efficiency of the mine action system in Ukraine, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine created an effective demining quality management system, which includes certification of mine action operators and demining quality control.

13. A number of Ukrainian authorities are involved in mine action, including the Ministry of Defense and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. Other relevant state agencies also deal with demining activities: the Security Service of Ukraine, the National Police of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, the State Service for Special Transport of Ukraine and the National Guard of Ukraine.

14. The main efforts are aimed at demining of critical infrastructure in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including power lines, gas and water pipelines, thermal power plants, as well as agricultural lands, roads and railways.

15. There are 5 non-governmental organizations working in Ukraine in the sphere of humanitarian demining including: The Halo Trust, The Danish Demining Group (DDG) and Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD). Since 2019 Ukrainian non-governmental operators Demining Solutions and Demining Team of Ukraine have joined mine action operations (organizations operate solely through donor funding).

16. As a result of demining work in 2019, 24 cleared areas with a total area of almost 170 hectares were handed over to the representatives of local authorities.

Financial and technical resources that can be used to destroy APM in mined areas

17. The budget for demining and destruction of the APM in mined areas is provided by budget expenses allocated to the relevant state authorities and military detachments, during the fiscal year.

Circumstances, which impede the ability of Ukraine to destroy all the APM in the mined areas

18. Currently Ukraine doesn't have control over the temporary occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as over the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. At the same time, the ongoing military standoff in Donbas and continuous hostilities cause further contaminations of the territories along the contact line. The irregularity and non-selectivity of the use of APMs by the Russian occupation forces in Donetsk and Luhansk regions do not allow to estimate the scale of contamination with APM and identify all mined areas. Thus, it is impossible to arrange relevant national programs for their demining, to determine the required resources and to carry out demining works in full.

19. Demining of these territories will begin after the end of hostilities, withdrawal of the Russian occupation forces, restoration of constitutional order and return of Ukraine's control over all its territory, including over the state border with the Russian Federation.

20. Moreover, the Russian Federation refuses to provide any information regarding blasting booms in the Crimean Isthmus and in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Time requested for an extension of the deadline.

21. Ukraine is requesting a 2-year extension of its deadline under Article 5 of the Ottawa convention (i.e. until 1 December 2023) provided completion of hostilities, restoration of the constitutional order and gaining the full control over the occupied territories, including over the state border between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications of the proposed extension

22. Fulfilment of the set of tasks aimed at complete destruction of the APMs will promote:
- i. reduction of risks associated with mines and ERW for civilians in Ukraine;
 - ii. creating a safe environment, reducing the impact of explosive objects on the environment;
 - iii. further safe use of mine-cleared areas and infrastructure for economic purposes;

- iv. essential decreasing of casualties among the civil population and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian cargos, in particular, to persons, who reside near the contact line and on the temporary occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions;
 - v. improvement of the civil population's access to essential goods and services, agricultural lands, infrastructural objects, forests, rivers, recreational facilities, that will have positive impact on the internal migration of population;
 - vi. growth of economic indicators, in particular, increase in agricultural production and livestock;
 - vii. unimpeded access of workers to enterprises, institutions and organizations, to communications and other objects of special importance and environmental security;
 - viii. clearance of soils and waters, polluted as a result of explosions of shells, explosives and mines, and;
 - ix. decrease of risks of emergencies in connection with mines and explosive objects.
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