

**Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the
Request for extension submitted by Ukraine**

Mr. President (Chair),

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation welcomes the efforts made by Ukraine in the preparation of its extension request, which have allowed for a cooperative dialogue to take place between Ukraine and the Committee.

The Committee also welcomes the comments on the request provided by expert organizations, including from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the HALO Trust, Mine Action Review and the GICHD.

- On 8 June 2020, Ukraine submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 June 2021 deadline.
- Following cooperative dialogue with the Committee, Ukraine submitted additional information on 27 August 2020.
- Ukraine's request is for a period of 2 years and 6 months until 1 December 2023.

In analysing Ukraine's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee noted that the circumstances that made it necessary for Ukraine to request an extension in 2018 remain unchanged.

In this regard, the Committee noted that it can be assumed that, during the period leading to the requested extended deadline, Ukraine would again evaluate the situation and form a fresh opinion as to whether matters have evolved so that Ukraine is, or may in future be, able to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines and to arrive at a specific assessment of the time required for their destruction.

The request indicates that, on 25 January 2019, the Law of Ukraine "on Mine Action in Ukraine" came into force and that the process of implementation of legislation in the field of mine action is ongoing.

The Committee welcomes the efforts made by Ukraine to pass legislation which provides clarity on the mine action structure in Ukraine. The Committee noted the importance of national ownership for implementation, which includes, as defined by the States Parties, empowering and providing relevant State entities with the human, financial and material capacity to carry out their obligations under the Convention.

The Committee noted the importance of Ukraine keeping national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS, adapting them to new challenges and employing best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.

The Committee noted that, given that the Ministry of Defence together with interested authorities prepares an annual Plan for humanitarian demining of liberated territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the States Parties would benefit from Ukraine ensuring that it annually updates its national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established.

The Committee further noted that, as the request did not contain a budget for implementation, Ukraine would benefit from including in its annual updates information on costs for implementation.

The Committee noted that the plan presented by Ukraine is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the progress in implementation.

In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Ukraine reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress and results of land release activities relative to the commitments made in Ukraine's annual work plan, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination. Report on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance) and how additional clarity obtained may alter Ukraine's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge;
- b. annual updated work plan based on new evidence containing adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually, how priorities have been established and costs for implementation;
- c. changes to the status of the control of mined areas and how these changes positively or negatively affect survey and clearance of mined areas;
- d. updated information on the development and adoption of National Mine Action Legislation and the establishment of a national mine action centre;
- e. updates on the steps taken by Ukraine to ensure the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes;
- f. updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age; and
- g. updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available from Ukraine's state budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Ukraine reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.