

Discussion on article 5 extension requests
Intervention by Germany on Ukrainian extension request
(Pls. Check against delivery)

Mr. President, Chair,

please allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of your office and to reassure you my delegations full support in its execution.

Ukraine is facing a very particular challenge as a state which acceded the convention in 2005 as one without contamination and a formidable disarmament record as demonstrated by its relinquishment of nuclear weapons 10 years earlier. However, the conflict imposed on it by its neighbor Russia changed the overall situation and constitutes not only a serious violation of international law, not least the Budapest Memorandum. The conflict in its Southern and Eastern parts has also caused immeasurable suffering and injustice including the recurrence of mine contamination and numerous respective victims. Germany comprehends the complexity of this problem and we stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian partners and friends when it comes to dealing with the conflict and its ramifications.

Notwithstanding the context and nature of the recent mine contamination, the text of the convention is unambiguous and requires to take action. This extension request by Ukraine is thus in no way to be seen as a sign of responsibility for the contamination but rather its good will and good faith in the functioning and objectives of the convention. Germany stands ready to assist Ukraine in this difficult and important endeavor. The most important task for Ukrainian authorities now is to show leadership and start or continue demining in a concerted national endeavor where it is possible and to prepare for its commencement in those parts of the country not under its effective control. We call on all members to the convention to assist Ukraine these actions and processes.

Thank you!

**Discussion on article 5 extension requests
Intervention by Germany on BiH extension request
(Pls. check against delivery)**

Chair,

BiH is facing the biggest known and suspected mine legacy problem in Europe. The sheer size and nature of the problem requires a concerted effort of BiH authorities, international organizations, NGO and donors to identify, map, tackle and solve the problem. With this in mind Germany has made an effort to establish a country coalition with and for BiH to make this happen. More details on this we are going to present in the cluster on cooperation and assistance on Thursday.

It is first and foremost in the hands of Bosnian authorities to take this process forward. This requires political will and commitment, the right strategy as well as the necessary resources.

While the BiH extension request stakes out a realistic roadmap to the clearance of known contaminated areas more needs to be done in order to reduce the still immense area – almost 1000 km² - of suspected contamination. If we ignore this problem now we open the door for consecutive extension requests which would constitute a challenge to the objectives and the legitimacy of the convention. We therefore call upon BiH to boost all efforts to tackle this problem in parallel. We stand ready to assist BiH in this process and we appeal to all States Parties in a position to do so to assist BiH as well in the framework of the Country Coalition.

Thank you Mr. chair!