

24/11

PM

Article 5 Extension Request: Informal remarks: Australia

First and foremost I would like to recognise the extensive work undertaken by the requesting states themselves in putting together such thorough extension requests.

These requests give us all a clearer picture than ever before of progress made and challenges remaining on the ground.

My delegation would like to commend 8MSP President HRH Prince Mired on his excellent work in guiding the work of the Analysing Group.

As a member of the Group and co-rapporteur on mine clearance, I have seen first-hand the dedication which the 8MSP President has devoted to this task. His leadership and insight cannot be overstated.

We have just heard some views and recommendations from the 8MSP President on the work of the Analysing Group and the future of the extension request process as a whole. My delegation fully concurs with all of his comments.

Mr President

As my colleague from Canada said this morning, what we as states parties do this week on Article 5, will set a precedent and is vital to the ongoing integrity of the Convention.

My delegation considers that the work of the Analysing Group can be of great input to our deliberations and can guide our work this week. The 15 analyses produced are the product of countless hours of work and important input from experts. I would encourage all states parties to consult these analyses closely when conducting their own assessments.

The Analysing Group also consulted closely with requesting states in every step of its work. These consultations led to the improvement of many requests and the provision of important additional information. The consultations have also led to the shortening of some requests.

We would especially like to commend those three requesting states which have requested only an interim extension to allow them to gather necessary information and develop realistic and complete demining plans.

We consider this a good approach and look forward to considering these states' follow-up requests at a future meeting.

Mr President

It is our hope that all extension requests can be adopted by consensus, in line with the cooperative spirit of the Convention.

However, we encourage those states on whose requests consensus may not be possible to work closely with you Mr President to find a way forward.