

STATEMENT BY THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION

Mr. Chairman,

I am taking the floor to make a reference to the recent adoption of the extension request submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

In this regard, my country has not joined the consensus as it rejects the pretence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to submit an extension request of the maximum time period set out in Article 5 of the Convention concerning the destruction of antipersonnel mines in the mined areas on the Malvinas Islands.

As it has been stated in the note circulated to all States Parties to the Convention last 9 July, this rejection is conveyed taking into account that the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of the national territory of Argentina and are illegitimately occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The General Assembly of the United Nations has recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland involving the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich islands and the surrounding maritime areas through resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25 on the "Question of the Malvinas Islands".

Likewise, the Special Committee on Decolonization has annually adopted a resolution on the same question in similar terms to the resolutions referred to, having adopted its last resolution by consensus on 12 June 2008.

Despite the said repeated pronouncements by the Organization of the United Nations and other fora and international and regional organizations to resume the negotiations on sovereignty, the United Kingdom persists in its refusal to comply with all these calls by the international community, an attitude which has prevented the resumption of the negotiations on sovereignty to this date.

The special and particular colonial situation regarding the Malvinas Islands due to the illegitimate occupation of the United Kingdom was set out in the Interpretative Declaration made by the Argentine Republic upon ratification of the Ottawa Convention on 14 September 1999.

Finally, I would like to inform that my country, in implementing Article 5 of the Convention which establishes that the obligation to destroy mines must be carried out by the States Parties with "jurisdiction or control", is one of the States Parties which will have to submit its extension request during 2009.

I will very much appreciate to distribute this intervention as a document of the Meeting in order to be included in its Final Report.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.