



**Comments on the absence of  
a mine clearance deadline extension request from Ukraine  
Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty  
Santiago, Chile, 29 November 2016**

Thank you Madam President.

The absence of an extension request from Ukraine is a reason for all States Parties to be concerned.

We have listened with attention to the statements made by Ukraine yesterday and today, and we take note of the efforts made to limit the impact of landmine contamination on civilians, including mine risk education and landmine clearance.

The treaty entered into force for Ukraine on 1 July 2006. The deadline for mine clearance was therefore 1 July 2016. Ukraine, for a number of understandable reasons, was not able to complete clearance by this deadline. What is not understandable is that Ukraine did not submit an extension request. The treaty's text regarding this situation is perfectly clear: Ukraine is currently in violation of the treaty. It must submit an extension request, and as soon as the request is granted, the violation will stop.

Madam Chair, there was a very good paragraph in the final report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties, to which we can all refer. The final report dated December 2015 said:

“The Meeting received information on the part of Ukraine in relation to unprecedented challenges in (...) clearing areas contaminated by anti-personnel landmines, caused by aggression and activities of illegal armed groups. (...) Nevertheless, Ukraine emphasized that it was fully aware of the need for strict compliance with the obligations under the Convention and notified its intention to seek an extension of the period of Ukraine's implementation of Article 5.”

Ukraine is in violation of the Convention on two counts. One is stockpile destruction: it has been ongoing for six years, and it is not easy to solve. The other one is related to Article 5: it can be easily solved by requesting an extension.

Unfortunately, this is the first time that a State Party has missed its clearance deadline and failed to request an extension at the next Meeting of States Parties. We are very worried by this precedent. There is still time, however, to find a solution for Ukraine to return to compliance before Thursday. We are sure that Ukraine, the Presidency, and the Committee will work in a cooperative manner to this end.

It is also relevant to note that Ukraine was among the top ten recipients of international financial support for mine action in 2015.

Madam Chair, if this is not resolved, we call for the inclusion of strong language indicating that this situation is not acceptable, in the final report to be adopted on Thursday. Thank you.