



## United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

### Intersessional Meetings of the **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

#### Statement on matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

**Geneva, 19 May 2016**

*Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva office, UNMAS*

Madam Chair,<sup>1</sup>

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising several United Nations entities<sup>2</sup> involved in mine action.

The United Nations is grateful for the report on the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, as well as on its preliminary observations.

Article 5 completion is one of the key pillars of this Convention. While recognizing the progress made by States Parties and the challenges they are facing in this regard, the United Nations remains concerned by the increasing number of extension requests.

Last year, the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties (14MSP) granted extensions to Cyprus, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal; and in early 2016, Niger and Peru submitted new extension requests.

Madam Chair,

The United Nations assists many States Parties in fulfilling their Article 5 obligations. Recent examples are Jordan, Mozambique and Uganda that are now mine-free and where UNDP had provided technical, logistical and financial support. Also, among the 25 countries participating in the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Committee on Article 5 Implementation is chaired by Ireland. Other members are Costa Rica, Ecuador and Zambia.

<sup>2</sup> The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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United Nations Strategy for Mine Action 2013-2018, nearly 90% of identified mine affected areas have been released back to communities.

Some States Parties nevertheless continue to face enormous challenges with Article 5 implementation. In Yemen, for example, children are severely impacted by mine and ERW contamination and over 7.3 million children are in need of special protection services, including the reopening of schools. Mine risk education is crucial in Yemen to reduce injuries and death from mines and ERW. UNICEF has provided MRE to some 470,000 people in Yemen, including children out of school.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in addition to ongoing armed conflict in the East and increased flows of refugees and internal displaced people (IDPs), the lack of infrastructure and the inaccessibility of affected areas explain the high operational costs of clearance in the country.

In Turkey, UNDP and the European Union are cooperating with the Government in a vast clearance programme and in increasing surveillance along the eastern borders of the country.

Madam Chair,

The United Nations takes this opportunity to remind States Parties that requests for extension are meant to be for exceptional cases, such as for countries with ongoing conflicts or with very limited resources and national capacity to manage high levels of contamination.

Thank you.