
Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Executive summary

Submitted by Cyprus¹

The Republic of Cyprus signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) on 3 December 1997. On 20 December 2002, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus ratified the Convention and the Instrument of Ratification was deposited with the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General on 17 January 2003. The Convention entered into force for Cyprus on 1 July 2003.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Cyprus undertook to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas as soon as possible but not later than 1 July 2013. Following its initial request for extension, submitted on 30 April 2012 and granted by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP), Cyprus has subsequently submitted and been granted two additional requests for extension. On 27 March 2015, Cyprus submitted a request for extension which was granted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) for a period of three years, until 1 July 2019. On 2 February 2018, Cyprus submitted a request for extension which was granted by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) for a period of three years, until 1 July 2022. The requests submitted in 2015 and 2018 indicated that circumstances that made it necessary for Cyprus to request an extension in 2012 remain unchanged.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of Article 5.3, the Republic of Cyprus is formally submitting a renewed request for extension to the Chair of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Committee on Article 5 Implementation for a further 3-year extension, until 1 July 2025, of the deadline to fulfil its obligation under Article 5.1 to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.

The Republic of Cyprus is compelled to renew its request to extend the deadline as the circumstances, which led to the initial decision, taken at the 12MSP, as well as the subsequent ones in relation to Cyprus, remain unchanged. In this effect, the request is submitted due to the continuous inability of the Republic of Cyprus to fulfil the obligations of Article 5 paragraph 1 in certain parts of Cyprus' territory which contain mined areas and in which anti-personnel mines have been or are suspected to be emplaced. Although they

¹ Request submitted through a letter by H.E. Ambassador George C Kasoulides, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus, to the Chair of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Committee on Article 5 Implementation.



form part of Cyprus' sovereign territory, they are de facto outside of the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus as a result of the continuous occupation of Turkey.
