

**Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the  
Request for extension submitted by Argentina**

Mr. President (Chair),

We, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, noted with satisfaction that Argentina had submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee, including by meeting with the Committee on the margins of the Convention's May 2019 intersessional meetings.

- On 19 March 2019, Argentina submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 January 2020 deadline.
- On 9 April 2019, the Committee wrote to expert organisations in order to draw on expert mine clearance and legal advice on the request submitted by Argentina.
- Argentina's request is for 3 years, until 1 March 2023.

In analysing Argentina's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee.

The request submitted in 2019 indicates that circumstances that made it necessary for Argentina to request an extension in 2009 remain unchanged. In this regard, the Committee noted that it can be assumed that, during the period leading to the requested extended deadline, Argentina would again evaluate the situation and form a fresh opinion as to whether matters have evolved so that Argentina is, or may in future be, able to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas and to arrive at a specific assessment of the time required for their destruction.

The request indicates that in the light of the new climate of the bilateral relationship between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom, which allowed concrete progress in matters of mutual interest, and with the shared purpose of advancing in building trust, Argentina has once again communicated to the United Kingdom its intention to complete humanitarian

demining of anti-personnel mines, and has expressed its willingness to arrive at a new interim understanding under the sovereignty formula that allows these tasks to be carried out jointly.

The Committee noted the necessity and importance of each State Party that has reported mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control and which believes that it will be unable to implement Article 5.1 with respect to all such areas within a ten year period submitting a request for an extension in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Convention and the decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.