

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

Mr. President (Chair),

We, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, welcome the request for extension from Eritrea.

- On 11 November 2019, Eritrea submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 February 2020 deadline.
- Eritrea's request is for 10 months, until 31 December 2020.

Unfortunately, given the late submission by Eritrea of its request as it should have been due on 31 March this year, the Committee did not have the opportunity to carry out an analysis as envisaged by the process established by the States Parties. Therefore, the Committee developed observations on the submission by Eritrea.

I would like to share some key points of the Committee's observations:

Process for submission of extension requests

On the process for submission of extension requests, the Committee is grateful to Eritrea for having communicated through its Note Verbale of 11 November the reasons for not abiding with the established Article 5 extension process. The Committee appreciates Eritrea's commitment to adhere to the process agreed to at the 7MSP moving forward.

The Committee regrets, however, its late submission of the extension request, as it will not be in a position to provide an analysis as per the established procedure. To date 39 States Parties have acted in a manner consistent with the process agreed to by the States Parties at the 7MSP. Many of these States Parties spent several months preparing requests and subsequently engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. In addition, "some requesting States Parties", as noted by the report submitted to the 9MSP by the President of the 8MSP, "(have) seized on the opportunity presented through an exten-

sion request to reinvigorate interest in a national demining plan, in large part by demonstrating national ownership and that implementation is possible in a relatively short period of time.”

The Committee further regrets that Eritrea has not provided updated information on implementation of its Article 5 obligations since its last extension request was granted by the Third Review Conference and has not complied with the decision of the Third Review Conference in that regard. Furthermore, the current request submitted by Eritrea provides no appreciable new information regarding the status of implementation. The Committee noted, in that regard, that Eritrea has reported that the restructuring of the Eritrean Demining Authority has impeded Eritrea from preparing a request containing detailed data on progress made to date as well as from presenting a work plan for the period beyond Eritrea’s 1 February 2020 deadline. Nonetheless, the Committee believes that the fact that Eritrea has not submitted updated information on implementation since it submitted its request for extension in 2014 is a matter of serious concern.

Eritrea currently requests an extension of its Article 5 deadline of 11 months until 31 December 2020, which will allow Eritrea the opportunity to present a detailed request including detailed information on its current contamination, progress made and a detailed work plan for implementation by 31 March 2020 for consideration by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2020. The Committee appreciates this commitment, as it will enable the engagement in a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea to prepare an analysis of the request, in accordance with the established procedures. The Committee further strongly encourages Eritrea to seek assistance from the Implementation Support Unit in the preparation of their requests, including by inviting the ISU for an in-country visit.