

Fourth Review Conference 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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Consideration of submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5

Analysis of the request submitted by Argentina for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Austria, Canada, Colombia and the Netherlands)*

1. Argentina ratified the Convention on 14 September 1999. The Convention entered into force for Argentina on 1 March 2000. In its initial transparency report submitted on 31 August 2000, Argentina reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Argentina was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 March 2010. Argentina, believing that it will be unable to do so by that date, submitted, on 27 April 2009 to the President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, a request for an extension of its deadline until 1 March 2020. The 2009 Second Review Conference granted the request.

2. In granting the request, the Second Review Conference noted that Argentina has expressed that the sole circumstance which impeded the ability of Argentina to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it had reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Argentina “does not exercise territorial control over the land to be demined”. The Conference 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.

3. On 19 March 2019, Argentina submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (“the Committee”) a request for extension of its 1 January 2020 deadline. Argentina’s request is for three years (until 1 March 2023). The Committee 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.

4. The request submitted in 2019 indicates that circumstances that made it necessary for Argentina to request an extension in 2009 remain unchanged. The request furthermore refers to information contained within the 2009 request. 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

* Late submission.



all anti-personnel mines and to arrive at a specific assessment of the time required for their destruction.

5. The request indicates that in the light of the new climate of the bilateral relationship between Argentina and the United Kingdom, which allowed concrete progress in matters of mutual interest. 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 antipersonnel 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.

6. 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.
