

## **17MSP ANTI PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**

### **Agenda item 9 Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention**

#### **b) Clearing mined areas: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 implementation**

#### **Statement Austria**

Madame Chair,

Austria aligns itself with the EU statements. In a national capacity we would like to add the following remarks. We wish to thank the members of the Committee on Article 5 Chile, Colombia, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

31 States Parties are currently in the process of implementing Article 5 obligations. Austria welcomes the submission of the relevant extension requests of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan, Ukraine and United Kingdom. We thank the Chair of the Article 5 Committee for the update on these extension requests. We believe that the strength of our Convention has always been the overall good record of compliance of States Parties and the cooperative spirit of the Convention. In accordance with Action 9 of the Maputo Action Plan we believe it is important that all States Parties adopt the most effective land release standards, policies and methodologies. We also encourage States Parties to submit Article 7 transparency reports on an annual basis.

Austria fully recognizes the difficult challenges Ukraine is facing since February 2014, in particularly regarding national territory currently not under its national control. We firmly support Ukraine in this regard, on a national as well as on a European and multilateral level. Precisely because of these challenges Austria welcomes that after two years Ukraine has taken the necessary steps to come into compliance with Article 5.

We encourage all States facing challenges under this Article to cooperate swiftly with the Convention`s mechanism and to cooperatively seek full compliance with Article 5

I thank you.