

## Intersessional Meeting on the Anti Personnel Mine Convention

18 June 2024

### Statement by the Republic of Cyprus

Thank you, Madam President,

I would like at the outset to express my Delegation's gratitude to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for the excellent work. I wish to reaffirm the steadfast commitment of the Government of Cyprus to fully implement the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to which we acceded in 2003.

With regards to the request we have submitted for a further three years extension to the current deadline, I would like to inform participants that the circumstances on the ground that were found by the States-Parties to constitute legitimate justification for the initial request back in 2012, and its subsequent renewals in 2015, 2018 and 2021 remain unchanged.

In particular, the Authorities of the Republic of Cyprus continue to be forcefully prevented from exercising effective control over a large area of its sovereign territory in the northern part of the island, which is occupied by Türkiye, rendering it impossible to verify the status of known or suspected minefields in this area. We are thus obliged to seek a further 3-year extension and I would like to refer in this respect, to the letter addressed by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus in Geneva to the President of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, dated 8 March 2024.

In closing, I wish to congratulate the President of the 22nd MSP, the Chairs and members of the Committees as well as the ISU for the efficient preparation of this meeting.

I thank