



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT: GUIDELINES ON ARTICLE 3 AND ARTICLE 4 EXTENSION REQUESTS

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS: EIGHTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

Delivered under agenda item 27 'The President will invite Bosnia and Herzegovina, Coordinator on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, to present draft guidelines on the submission of the extension requests related to the implementation of Article 3 and Article 4 obligations'. Monday 3 September 2018.

Mr President,

1. As this is my Delegation's first time taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your Presidency. You have the United Kingdom's full support. I would also like to thank the ISU and the Coordinators for all their continued excellent work.
2. The United Kingdom is extremely grateful for the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the two papers setting out Guidelines under the Convention on Article 3 and Article 4 Extension Requests, and for your short presentation. The UK supports the principle of guidelines, namely to promote a process that is clear and uncontentious for all, and we are also keen to ensure the guidelines are coherent and fit for purpose. The UK would like to make some general observations in areas of relevance to both the Article 3 and Article 4 guidelines.
3. Firstly, we should be mindful of the risks of creating a lengthy and resource-intensive process for the Analysis Group and Convention whilst seeking external expertise, but also retain flexibility on expertise appropriate to each case.
4. Secondly, in reference to the submission of annual progress reports, the UK recognises the importance of transparency and keeping the Convention appraised of progress and challenges. However, the UK is cautious of creating additional and/or unnecessary resource burdens. Therefore the annual progress reports may be best delivered through the existing mechanisms of Article 7 transparency reports and updates at the Meeting of States Parties in the respective Article 3 and 4 agenda items.
5. The UK would strongly support measures to absorb best practice and processes relevant to this exercise. We would therefore suggest that the Analysis Group coordinate with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Article 4 and 5 Committees, if this is not already in hand. In closing, the UK reiterates its support and gratitude to Bosnia and Herzegovina for these guidelines. Thank you.