

ARGENTINA



ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2020
(NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

- Argentina should renew an earlier offer it made to the United Kingdom (UK) to support demining of the Malvinas/Falkland Islands.

CONTAMINATION

Argentina reports that it is mine-affected by virtue of its claim to sovereignty over the Malvinas/Falkland Islands.¹ On ratifying the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), Argentina submitted a declaration reaffirming “its rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich and the surrounding maritime areas which form an integral part of the territory.”² The islands were mined, mostly by Argentinian forces, during its armed conflict with the UK in 1982. Argentina has reported that no other territory under its jurisdiction or control is mine-affected.³

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Argentina has a Humanitarian Demining Office under the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces and a Humanitarian Demining Training Centre (Centro de Entrenamiento de Desminado Humanitario).

1 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 7 Report, Form A, 8 April 2010.

2 APMBC Article 7 Report, Form A, 31 August 2000.

3 Statement of Argentina, Second APMBC Review Conference, Cartagena, 30 November 2009.

LAND RELEASE

Argentina has argued that it is unable to meet its Article 5 obligations because it did not have access to the Malvinas due to the “illegal occupation” by the UK. It did, however, make an offer more than a decade ago to support demining of the islands. In May 2016, Argentina reiterated its claim of sovereignty over the islands and declared that if the UK entered into negotiations over sovereignty that an agreement on demining could be reached between the two countries.⁴

ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, and in accordance with the 10-year extension granted in 2009 by the APMBC Second Review Conference, Argentina is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 January 2020.

At the Second APMBC Review Conference Argentina said it was unable to meet its Article 5 obligations because it did not have access to the Malvinas due to the “illegal occupation” by the UK. Argentina said for this reason it had no other choice than to request an extension to its clearance deadline.⁵

4 Statement of Argentina, Intersessional Meetings (Article 5 Committee), Geneva, 17 May 2016.

5 Statement of Argentina, Second APMBC Review Conference, Cartagena, 30 November 2009.