

## KEY DATA

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:  
1 JULY 2028

Not on track to meet deadline  
(Lack of effective control)

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:  
1 km<sup>2</sup>

Light  
(Mine Action Review estimate)

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

| Release of AP mined area   | Release in 2024 (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Release in 2023 (km <sup>2</sup> ) |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Clearance  | 0                                  | 0                                  |
| Technical Survey   | 0                                  | 0                                  |
| Non-Technical Survey   | 0                                  | 0                                  |
| Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks | 2024                               | 2023                               |
| AP Mines destroyed   | 0                                  | 0                                  |

## MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- None

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

No progress was reported in 2024 towards the Republic of Cyprus (Cyprus) and Türkiye/the Turkish Cypriot authorities agreeing to complete mine clearance on the island, and for a fifth consecutive year no mined area was released. In March and July 2025, however, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General held two informal meetings with the leader of Cyprus, President Nikos Christodoulides, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Ersin Tatar, which resulted in agreeing six new initiatives to build trust, including one on demining. Following the second of these meetings, held in July 2025, the UN Secretary-General reported that, “an agreement on demining will be closed once the final technical details are established”.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot authorities should both work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus and make progress towards releasing the 29 remaining hazardous areas on the island.
- Cyprus and the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) should update, consolidate, and align data on remaining mined areas.

## AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

## MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- No national mine action authority or mine action centre

## NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

## INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None (Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and DOK-ING were last active in 2017)

## OTHER ACTORS

- UN-supported mine action in Cyprus is coordinated by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) on behalf of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

# UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The precise extent of anti-personnel (AP) mined area in Cyprus is unclear. Cyprus's most recent Article 7 report, submitted in July 2024, repeated that 21 AP minefields laid by Turkish Armed Forces remained: 1 in the buffer zone in the vicinity of the Deryneia village, and the other 20 north of, but "overwhelmingly situated adjacent to the buffer zone". Cyprus said it did not know the size of these mined areas or if they contained mines other than AP mines.<sup>1</sup> In a media report in June 2024, sources from the Cypriot government indicated that no AP mines were left in the buffer zone, or indeed elsewhere "inside the Republic", although it is unclear if the reference to demining in the buffer zone referred only to AP mines laid by its own forces.<sup>2</sup> The sources acknowledged that anti-vehicle (AV) mines remain in territory controlled by the Cypriot government for defence purposes. The media report also claimed to cite an estimate from the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) that 7,000 mines remain emplaced across the island, covering a total of 2km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

Contamination data in UNFICYP's mine action database cited by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) differ from those provided by Cyprus. It showed that, across Cyprus, 29 mined areas covered a total of 1.5km<sup>2</sup> at the end of 2024, a level unchanged since the end of 2019.<sup>4</sup> The contamination consisted mostly of AV mines (see Table 1). North of the buffer zone, mined areas include one confirmed hazardous area (CHA) and five suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) thought to contain a mixture of AP and AV mines. Nineteen hazardous areas recorded south of the buffer zone contain only AV mines (13 CHAs and 6 SHAs) as do three of four CHAs in the buffer zone (the mine type in the fourth was unknown).<sup>5</sup> UNMAS reported that there were no changes in recorded contamination in 2024.<sup>6</sup>

Table 1: Mined area in Cyprus (at end 2024)<sup>7</sup>

| Location   | CHAs | Contamination                          | Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | SHAs | Contamination | Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Total areas | Total area (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|--|------|--|------------------------|------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| South of the buffer zone (territory under effective control of the Government of Cyprus)         | 13   | AV mines                               | 418,543                | 6    | AV mines      | 174,014                | 19          | 592,557                      |
| Buffer Zone  | 4    | AV mines (3 areas)<br>Unknown (1 area) | 703,581                | 0    | N/A           | N/A                    | 4           | 703,581                      |
| North of the buffer zone (territory not under the effective control of the Government of Cyprus) | 1    | Mixed (AV mines and AP mines)          | 170,493                | 5    | Mixed         | 65,281                 | 6           | 235,774                      |
| Totals   | 18   |  | 1,292,617              | 11   |               | 239,295                | 29          | 1,531,912                    |

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 by a 180km-long buffer zone, following the invasion by Turkish Armed Forces in the north of the island. Minefields were laid by both the Greek

Cypriot National Guard and the Turkish Armed Forces. Permission for UNFICYP to access areas within and outside the buffer zone remains limited.<sup>8</sup>

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.  
2 "Buffer zone now free of mines, government says", *Cyprus Mail*, 8 June 2024 at: <https://bit.ly/3KGIRcz>.  
3 Ibid.  
4 Emails from Mark Connelly, Chief of Operations, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 8 April 2020, 26 June 2020, 28 May 2021, 12 May 2022, and 22 March 2023; and interview in Geneva, 30 April 2024.  
5 Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 22 March 2023.  
6 Interview with Mark Connolly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, in Geneva, 9 April 2025.  
7 Emails from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 8 April and 26 June 2020, 28 May 2021, 12 May 2022, 22 March 2023; and interviews with Mark Connolly in Geneva, 16 April 2024 and 9 April 2025.  
8 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 26 September 2017.

## TERRITORY UNDER THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS

Cyprus' latest Article 7 report (covering 2023) reiterates that no AP mines remain in the minefields laid by the National Guard that are in territory under its effective control.<sup>9</sup> In total, between becoming a State Party on 1 July 2003 and its original Article 5 deadline of 1 July 2013, Cyprus released 20 mined areas under its effective control.<sup>10</sup>

Türkiye has accused Cyprus of disseminating "inaccurate and misleading information", saying that, "as part of its false allegations, the Greek Cypriot side claims that it has cleared all anti-personnel mines as of 2013 as part of its obligations stemming from the Ottawa Convention and that the only other mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines are located in the areas north of the buffer zone."<sup>11</sup> Türkiye has called this allegation by Cyprus, "a blatant falsehood."<sup>12</sup> The self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) used very similar terminology in its letter of 3 June 2024 to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Committee on Article 5 Implementation regarding the request by Cyprus for an extension to its Article 5 deadline.<sup>13</sup> UNMAS UNFICYP records, however, also

indicate that there are no remaining AP mines in territory south of the buffer zones, and that only AV mines remain in territory controlled by Cyprus (see Table 1).

Türkiye and TRNC have pointed to the response of Cyprus to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2023 (covering 2022) as one reason to question information provided by Cyprus on the clearance of AP mines.<sup>14</sup> In its response to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines the previous year, in 2022 (covering 2021), Cyprus stated at question 10, "On 20 January 2011, the clearance of all minefields laid by the National Guard located in the Buffer Zone was completed," and this is repeated in Form B of the document. In its response to the OSCE questionnaires since 2023, however, Cyprus has stated (at question 10) that it concluded clearance of all minefields laid by the National Guard by 20 January 2023 rather than 20 January 2011, though in Form B, it has reiterated that clearance was completed on 20 January 2011.<sup>15</sup>

## BUFFER ZONE

Four mined areas remained in the buffer zone at the end of 2022, three of which belong to the National Guard and contain only AV mines. The fourth belongs to Turkish Armed Forces and the mine type is unknown.<sup>16</sup> The Government of Cyprus considers the three minefields with only AV mines to be under its control and not within the buffer zone.<sup>17</sup>

## TURKISH-CONTROLLED TERRITORY IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

The extent of mined area in areas controlled by Turkish Armed Forces is not known. Cyprus made its 2024 Article 5 extension deadline request for the same reason as the previous four extension requests (in 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021), on the grounds that areas "occupied by Türkiye" are, "the only ones in the jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus that remain emplaced with anti-personnel mines or are suspected" to be so.<sup>18</sup>

Since the end of 2019, Cyprus has estimated that 20 Turkish-laid AP minefields remain north of and mostly adjacent to the buffer zone, plus one in the buffer zone near Deryneia village,<sup>19</sup> while UNMAS UNFICYP has recorded one CHA and 5 SHAs of mixed AP and AV mines north of the buffer zone covering a total of 235,774m<sup>2</sup> (see Table 1 above). Cyprus reports that both the size of the minefields north of the buffer zone and whether the mined area include mines

other than AP mines is unknown.<sup>20</sup> It has further stated that it "continue[s] 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".<sup>21</sup>

One minefield has been reported just north of the buffer zone in Mammari, where heavy rains led to mines being washed into the buffer zone in 2014 and 2015. UNFICYP has raised the issue of clearance of this minefield with the Turkish Armed Forces and has offered assistance in this regard.<sup>22</sup> In 2017, a small area of the Mammari minefield was cleared by a Croatian commercial operator contracted by the Turkish Armed Forces.<sup>23</sup> No further information was available and it is assumed that there has been no further progress.

<sup>9</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

<sup>10</sup> Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Observations on implementation of Article 5 by Cyprus", 23 June 2015; and Article 7 Report (covering 2013), Form G.

<sup>11</sup> Statement of Türkiye on Cyprus's Article 5 deadline extension request, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.; and Statement of Türkiye, APMBC Fifth Review Conference, Siem Riep, 25–29 November 2024.

<sup>13</sup> Letter from Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the TRNC, to H.E. Gustavo Gallón, Chair of the APMBC Article 5 Implementation Committee, 3 June 2024.

<sup>14</sup> Statement of Türkiye, APMBC Fifth Review Conference, Siem Riep, 25–29 November 2024; and letter from Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu, MoFA, TRNC, to Gustavo Gallón, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, 3 June 2024.

<sup>15</sup> Response of Cyprus to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines for 2024, 2023, 2022, and 2021.

<sup>16</sup> Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 23 March 2023; and Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2018/676, 6 July 2018, para. 44.

<sup>17</sup> Interview with Demetris Samuel, Deputy Permanent Representative, Cyprus Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, Geneva, 19 May 2016.

<sup>18</sup> 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

<sup>19</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

<sup>20</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form C.

<sup>21</sup> Statement of Cyprus, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

<sup>22</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form C; and email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Joseph Huber, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 24 July 2017.

<sup>23</sup> Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 10 September 2018.

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

UN-supported mine action operations in Cyprus are coordinated by UNMAS on behalf of UNFICYP.<sup>24</sup> UNMAS is a component of UNFICYP, providing expertise in mine action planning and coordination, quality assurance (QA) oversight, and management of mine action information.<sup>25</sup> UNMAS also provides assistance to the Committee on Missing Persons to ensure safe access to areas where it conducts activities and to UNFICYP for small arms ammunition storage.<sup>26</sup>

In 2024, Cyprus sought and was granted a fifth extension to its Article 5 deadline on the same basis as previous requests, that “areas of Cyprus’s sovereign territory are occupied by Türkiye and are therefore de facto outside the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus”.<sup>27</sup> The Committee on Article 5 Implementation noted the importance of Cyprus seeking a cooperative solution to the situation so that it will be in a position to declare completion of its obligations under Article 5, and of keeping States Parties regularly apprised of efforts and other developments regarding its implementation of Article 5.<sup>28</sup>

The most recent reported release of mined area was in 2019 when 18 SHAs (nine under the effective control of Cyprus and nine in the north of the island) were checked and declared mine-free.<sup>29</sup> UNFICYP had defined the 18 areas as potentially hazardous as a result of mines laid in the areas. The successful inspection of the 18 SHAs was achieved following a 2019 agreement between the President of Cyprus and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community in the context of confidence-building measures.<sup>30</sup>

The UN Security Council has made repeated calls for mine clearance on the island, most recently in January 2025, when it urged “the sides to agree and continue a plan of work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus, and ... to make expeditious progress towards clearing the 29 remaining suspected hazardous areas on the island”.<sup>31</sup> In his report to the Council

in January 2025, the UN Secretary-General stated that: “The mission’s Mine Action Service continued to support the Force Commander in engaging with both sides regarding options for a new phase of clearance activities, with a special focus on the buffer zone and on remaining anti-personnel mines. No progress was made during the reporting period in clearing the 29 remaining suspected hazardous areas on the island, including the 4 active minefields in the buffer zone, 3 of which belong to the National Guard and 1 to the Turkish Forces.”<sup>32</sup>

While the Turkish Cypriot authorities have expressed potential interest in reaching an agreement on mine clearance if it involved reciprocity from the other side, most recently setting out proposals for cooperation via the UN Secretary-General in 2022,<sup>33</sup> the Greek Cypriot National Guard previously did not wish to discuss the matter.<sup>34</sup> The Government of Cyprus has maintained that mined areas in which AP mines have been or are suspected to be emplaced are in areas outside its effective control.<sup>35</sup>

The year 2025, however, has brought some signs of progress after the UN Secretary-General held informal meetings with the leaders of Cyprus and the TRNC. After the first, held in Geneva in March 2025, the Secretary-General reported that demining had been agreed as one of six trust-building initiatives.<sup>36</sup> He suggested that this agreement “lent some political impetus” to efforts to clear the remaining 29 mines on the island, even though “the previously-held positions of the sides remain the same.”<sup>37</sup> Further meetings took place at the UN base in Cyprus between the two leaders in April and May 2025, to discuss the six initiatives.<sup>38</sup> In July 2025, after a second meeting with the UN Secretary-General in New York, the Secretary-General reported that demining was one of four initiatives to have been achieved, albeit that the agreement would be “closed” when the technical details were established.<sup>39</sup>

## FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

UNMAS Cyprus is funded by the UN peacekeeping assessed budget for UNFICYP. The resources cover technical capacity for planning and coordination; awareness training for UNFICYP personnel; advocacy activities; and data management of mine action information.<sup>40</sup>

24 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 10 September 2018.

25 UNMAS, “Cyprus” webpage, accessed 6 June 2024, at: <http://bit.ly/2GtTXje>.

26 Ibid.

27 Cyprus Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 8 March 2024; and Decision of the APMBC Fifth Review Conference, 27 November 2024.

28 Analysis of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Fifth Review Conference, 25–29 November 2025.

29 Cyprus Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information, 11 August 2021.

30 Ibid.; and email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılgan, Director for Political Affairs, MoFA, TRNC, 11 August 2022.

31 UN Security Council Resolution 2771 (2025), 31 January 2025, operative para. 18.

32 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2025/6, 3 January 2025, operative para. 22.

33 Email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılgan, MoFA, TRNC, 11 August 2022; Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2023/6, 3 January 2023, Annex II, pp. 22–23; and letter from Damla Güçlü, Director-General, MOFA, TRNC, 2 May 2023, attached to email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılgan, MoFA, TRNC, of 3 May 2023.

34 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2024/12, 3 January 2024, operative para. 24.

35 Email from Giorgos Samouel, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations Office, 10 August 2023; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

36 United Nations Office at Geneva, “Informal Meeting on Cyprus, UN Geneva: UN Secretary-General António Guterres Media Stakeout”, 18 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3TSk8Wd>.

37 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2025/447, 3 July 2025, operative para. 20.

38 Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2025/448, 3 July 2025 operative paras. 4 and 5; and “Rival Cypriot sides to work on removing landmines, other peace initiatives”, *Reuters*, 2 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3H0lPOV>.

39 United Nations Secretary-General, “Secretary-General’s remarks to press following informal meeting on Cyprus”, 17 July 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4m5N6Or>.

40 UNMAS, “Cyprus” webpage, accessed 22 July 2025; and UNFICYP, “Mine Action” webpage, accessed 22 July 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4lz8TYy>.

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

In recent years, including 2024, only one member of staff has been deployed at UNMAS UNFICYP—the Chief of Operations—who is male.<sup>41</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

There was no available information on environmental policies relevant to demining in Cyprus.

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

UNFICYP uses the New Generation version of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).<sup>42</sup>

Cyprus has submitted annual Article 7 reports regularly since becoming a State Party to the APMBC in July 2003, most recently in 2024, covering calendar year 2023. As at July 2025, Cyprus had not submitted an Article 5 report covering

2024. Cyprus has submitted five Article 5 deadline extension requests: in 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021, and most recently in 2024. Cyprus submitted most of the reports in a timely manner but provided only limited information due to its lack of effective control over the remaining AP mined areas.

## PLANNING AND TASKING

Neither the Republic of Cyprus nor Türkiye/the Turkish Cypriot authorities have yet disclosed plans to survey and clear the remaining mine contamination. The self-proclaimed TRNC has reported that it made a proposal for a mine-free island on 8 July 2022 and that it had previously made comprehensive proposals for clearing mines from the island in 2014, 2015, and 2018.<sup>43</sup>

In its proposal for a mine-free island, dated 8 July 2022, reportedly conveyed to the Government of Cyprus through the UN Secretary-General, the TRNC said that it proposed that the ultimate goal be clearance of the 29 remaining SHAs to free the island from all landmines; demining to be facilitated by UNFICYP in coordination with the two sides; demining to commence in areas adjacent to the buffer zone

(one minefield under the “jurisdiction” of the Turkish Cypriot authorities in Deryneia, the other three under the control of the Government of Cyprus); demining in each side to be conducted proportionately and simultaneously; and that both sides convene to discuss, in detail, the modalities of the demining operations.<sup>44</sup> At the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in June 2024, Türkiye confirmed that this proposal was “still on the table”.<sup>45</sup>

As indicated above, there were some initial developments in 2025 following informal meetings brokered by the UN Secretary-General, that could result in a plan for demining on the island of Cyprus as part of a number of trust-building initiatives.<sup>46</sup>

41 Interviews with Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, in Geneva, 30 April 2024 and 9 April 2025.

42 Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 16 June 2021.

43 Email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılğan, MoFA TRNC, 11 August 2022; and letters from Damla Güçlü, MOFA, TRNC, 3 May 2023, and from Tahsin Ertuğroğlu, MoFA, TRNC, to Gustavo Gallón, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, 3 June 2024.

44 “Proposal of the TRNC for a Mine-Free Island”, provided via an email from Aysan Mullahasan Atılğan, MoFA TRNC, 11 August 2022; see also Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2023/6, 3 January 2023, Annex II, pp. 22–23.

45 Statement of Türkiye (right of reply) on Cyprus’s Article 5 deadline extension request, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

46 United Nations, “Secretary-General’s remarks to press following informal meeting on Cyprus”, 17 July 2025.

# LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

## STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

All UN-supported mine action operations in Cyprus are said to be conducted in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).<sup>47</sup> In 2016, UNMAS updated the national technical standards and guidelines that are used in UNFICYP to reflect current best practice and to ensure the highest standards are applied for UNFICYP clearance operations.<sup>48</sup> It is not known whether there have been further updates.

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

UNMAS conducts non-technical survey (NTS) and technical survey (TS) in cooperation with representatives of the National Guard and Turkish Cypriot Security Force.<sup>49</sup> No clearance has been conducted since 2017 when the Turkish Armed Forces contracted DOK-ING to conduct clearance in the Mammari minefield and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to conduct QA of the demining.<sup>50</sup>

# LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

No mine survey or clearance was reported in Cyprus between 2020 and 2024.<sup>51</sup> UNFICYP continued to raise the issue of demining in accordance with its mandate, but by the end of 2024, there had been no agreement on options to continue demining.<sup>52</sup> It was, however, reported in 2024 that UNMAS had prepared options for a new phase of clearance with a focus on the buffer zone and on remaining AP mines,<sup>53</sup> though no further details were disclosed.

## ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Cyprus is obligated to destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than 1 July 2028.

Cyprus reported clearing all AP mines in mined areas that it accepted were under its control within ten years of becoming a State Party, namely by 1 July 2013. In 2012,

Cyprus submitted the first of five Article 5 deadline extension requests, on the grounds that Cyprus does not have effective control over remaining contaminated areas in the northern part of the island which are “occupied by Türkiye”. Cyprus has provided the same justification for all subsequent extension requests. The fifth request, submitted in March 2024, sought an extension of three years until 1 July 2028.<sup>54</sup>

47 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Joseph Huber, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 24 July 2017.  
48 Ibid.  
49 Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 26 July 2019.  
50 Ibid.  
51 Article 7 Reports (covering 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023), Forms C and F; 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request; emails from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, 28 May 2021, 12 May 2022, 23 March 2023, and 16 April 2024, and interview in Geneva, 9 April 2025.  
52 Interview with Mark Connelly, UNMAS, UNFICYP, in Geneva, 9 April 2025.  
53 Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2024/527, 5 July 2024, operative para. 22.  
54 See, e.g., the latest request by Cyprus: 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

This request was granted at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024.

Türkiye received a three-year, nine-month extension to its Article 5 clearance deadline until 31 December 2025 but did not request additional time for clearance of the areas it controls in the northern part of Cyprus.<sup>55</sup> Türkiye also did not make reference to clearing AP mines in the northern part of Cyprus in its five-year Article 5 deadline extension request of 28 March 2025,<sup>56</sup> which was due to be considered at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties in December 2025.

In 2025 there were indications of some initial movement towards reaching an agreement on demining on Cyprus following meetings between the leaders of the Republic of Cyprus and the TRNC, facilitated by the UN, when demining was agreed as one of six initiatives to build confidence between the two sides.<sup>57</sup> It remains to be seen if this will result in any concrete outcomes.

## PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

It is not known whether plans are in place to address residual contamination once Cyprus' Article 5 obligations have been fulfilled.

<sup>55</sup> Türkiye's Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2021. On the issue of Turkish jurisdiction, see, e.g., European Court of Human Rights, *Güzelyurtlu and others v. Cyprus and Turkey*, Judgment (Grand Chamber), 29 January 2019.

<sup>56</sup> 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request [Türkiye].

<sup>57</sup> United Nations Office at Geneva, "Informal Meeting on Cyprus, UN Geneva: UN Secretary-General António Guterres Media Stakeout", 18 March 2025; and United Nations, "Secretary-General's remarks to press following informal meeting on Cyprus", 17 July 2025.