

DRAFT

Decisions on the request submitted by Somalia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

1. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Somalia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 October 2027.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that after 10 years of implementation efforts since entry into force of the Convention, the totality of efforts and progress made by Somalia since entry into force and the remaining challenge are unclear. The Meeting further noted Somalia's commitment to strengthen and increase its capacity to assess progress made, obtain clarity regarding its remaining Article 5 challenges and address it as soon as possible.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a five-year extension, Somalia was projecting that it would need approximately five years from the date of submission of its request to strengthen the capacity of the Somalia Explosive Management Agency (SEMA) including its information management capacity, strengthen partnerships and coordination for land release and mine risk education activities, undertake non-technical survey operations in secure areas to obtain clarity regarding remaining contamination, produce a detailed plan and submit a further extension request. The Meeting noted that it is positive that Somalia is requesting only the period of time necessary to strengthen its capacity and gather and assess data on progress made and remaining contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting highlighted the importance of Somalia ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Somalia in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Somalia in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Somalia reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination and reporting on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Somalia strengthening national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of Somalia's obligations under the Convention, including through the establishment of an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of the Somalia carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

7. The Meeting, in noting that Somalia's request for extension does not contain a clear detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for survey and clearance and that the planned activities highlighted in the request may be affected by changing circumstances, the level of resources obtained and the amount of external and internal capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Meeting requested that Somalia submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for survey and clearance including, amongst other matters:
 - i. A detailed, costed work plan for implementation of Non-Technical Survey (NTS) including information on the available assets to conduct NTS, the cost for the NTS as well as the areas where NTS will be prioritised;
 - ii. A list of all accessible areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual milestones of which areas and how much area is to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established for the remaining period covered by the request and a revised detailed updated budget; and
 - iii. A detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities as well as provisions for a sustainable national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered.
8. The Meeting noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is based on significant contribution from the international community, improvement in the current security situation, access to mined areas, and improvement in coordination. In this regard, the Meeting noted that, in addition to the matters highlighted above, the States Parties would benefit from Somalia reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Somalia's work plan, including progress made in the implementation of Phase 1 and Phase 2;
 - b. Results of survey and clearance efforts, reported in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
 - c. Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Somalia's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge, providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination;
 - d. Annual adjusted milestones, including the number of mined areas and amount of mined area to be addressed, and on how priorities have been established;
 - e. Updates on Somalia's efforts to update its National Mine Action Standards in accordance with the latest IMAS;
 - f. Updates on Somalia's efforts to strengthen its national information management system and its data collection efforts to ensure that Somalia maintains accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation;

- g. Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, priorities for implementation, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
 - h. Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
 - i. Updates on efforts to strengthen coordination amongst partners in Somalia, including by consideration to the establishment of a national mine action platform to ensure regular dialogue;
 - j. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
 - k. Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts including resources made available by the Government of Somalia, including through the formal institutional approval for SEMA and approval of national budget allocations, and external financing received to support implementation efforts and the effects of the funding level on the implementation of the work plan; and
 - l. Updates regarding the structure of Somalia's mine action program, including existing and new organizational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.
9. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Somalia reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at Intersessional Meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.