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Decisions on the request submitted by Turkey 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 Turkey 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 31 December 2025.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Turkey had not been able to complete the implementation of the principal commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by its deadline, Turkey has made commendable progress and has committed to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a three year and nine-month extension, Turkey was projecting that it would need approximately three years and nine months from the date of submission of its request to carry out clearance activities and Non-Technical Survey of remaining mined areas, continue mine risk education activities, mobilize national and international resources and submit by 31 March 2025 a plan for completion of its Article 5 commitments. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed the fact that Turkey is requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Turkey's efforts to ensure that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards, 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 Turkey in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Turkey in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Turkey 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. The Meeting further noted the importance of Turkey ensuring the application of all provisions and obligations under the Convention to contamination by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregate by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting, in noting that Turkey provided implementation milestones for the period of 2021-2023 as well as the stated assumptions and risks to implementation, the fact that the different projects will be carried out through mine clearance contractors, the need to ensure timely tender and contracting procedures, the need to ensure stable funding as well as the continued challenges posed by COVID- 19, the Meeting further noted that the Convention would benefit from Turkey submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that the work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas remain to be addressed by which organisations during the remaining

period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting emphasised the request should contain an updated context specific mine risk education and reduction plan.

7. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Turkey is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Turkey reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Turkey's work plan, including progress in tendering and contracting of implementation partners for survey and clearance and the 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);
 - b. Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Turkey'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;
 - c. Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
 - d. 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;
 - e. Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
 - f. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Turkey to support implementation efforts; and
 - g. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.
8. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Turkey reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its 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 Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.