

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

29 November 2019

- i. The Conference assessed the request submitted by Eritrea for an extension of Eritrea's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5 (1).
- ii. The Conference expressed concern that Eritrea had not acted in accordance with the agreed "process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extensions to Article 5 deadlines", which was established at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. The Conference expressed concern that the late submission of a request by Eritrea did not permit the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to carry out their mandate in full to analyze the request.
- iii. The Conference welcomed Eritrea's commitment to adhere to the process established by the States Parties and submit a request in 2020 in accordance with the process, as indicated in its request, and its positive engagement in this regard. This will permit a cooperative dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.
- iv. The Conference noted that Eritrea had not provided updated information on implementation of its Article 5 obligations since its last extension request was granted by the Third Review Conference and has not complied with the decision of the Third Review Conference. The Conference further noted that the request submitted by Eritrea did not provide sufficient information regarding the status of implementation. The Conference therefore noted that the fact that Eritrea has not submitted updated information on implementation since it submitted its request for extension in 2014 is a matter of serious concern.
- v. The Conference noted that in order to function appropriately, the process of requesting extensions requires them to be submitted by 31 March of the same year as the Conference during which they would be considered takes place in order for an analysis of the request to be prepared and to allow for a cooperative exchange between the requesting State and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to take place. In this context, the Conference noted that Eritrea and the Convention as a whole would benefit from a full extension request process taking place and agreed to grant Eritrea an eleven-month extension until 31 December 2020. The Conference also noted that Eritrea would benefit if it seeks assistance from the Implementation Support Unit in the preparation of their request, including by inviting the ISU for an in-country visit.
- vi. The Conference requested that Eritrea submit a request, in accordance with the established process, by 31 March 2020, for Eritrea and the States Parties to benefit from a cooperative exchange on the request. In this regard, the Conference noted that it would be beneficial if Eritrea's request includes information on:
 - a. progress made in addressing mined areas since Eritrea's extension request was granted by the Third Review Conference in 2014 in a manner consistent with the International

Mine Action Standards by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared;

- b. the number, location and size of the remaining mined areas in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas;
- c. plans to clear or otherwise release these areas including annual survey and clearance milestones;
- d. efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

- vii. The Conference noted the importance of Eritrea keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of implementation of Article 5 at intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.