

Decisions on the request submitted by Yemen 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 Yemen for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 (1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2023.
- ii. In granting the request, the Conference noted the difficult circumstances faced by Yemen in its efforts to implementing the decisions of the Third Review Conference to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination and carry out clearance to fulfil its obligations during the extension period. The Conference further noted Yemen's commitment to strengthen and increase its capacity to address the current contamination and obtain clarity regarding the remaining contamination.
- iii. Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that, by requesting a three-year extension, Yemen was projecting that it would need approximately three years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining contamination, produce a detailed plan and submit a further extension request. The Conference noted that it is positive that Yemen is requesting only the period of time necessary to strengthen its capacity and gather and assess data on contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan.
- iv. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Yemen's efforts to update its National Mine Action Standards and its standard operating procedures. In this regard, the Conference highlighted the importance of Yemen ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention, including in ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed hazardous area. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Yemen in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Yemen in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Conference further noted the importance of Yemen continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.
- v. Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that, while the plan presented by Yemen is ambitious but workable and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation, its success is contingent upon strengthening of Yemen's capacity, increased security, access, recruitment of additional survey teams and a significant contribution of international funding. In this regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Yemen informing the States Parties, by 30 April, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:
 - a. Progress and results of its mine action emergency response efforts;
 - b. Progress in the establishment of a prioritization system;

- c. Progress in updating its National Mine Action Standards and Standard Operating Procedures;
 - d. Progress made in strengthening its information management system;
 - e. The outcome of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Yemen's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
 - f. Progress made in addressing mined areas during the extension period disaggregated in accordance with the IMAS by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared;
 - g. Efforts to increase survey and demining capacity, including efforts carried by Yemen to expand partnerships with international non-governmental organizations and commercial companies and the result of these efforts;
 - h. Resources obtained relative to needs expressed in the request, including resources provided by the Government of Yemen itself;
 - i. Progress made in the establishment of YEMAC (Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre) branches in Taiz and Marib;
 - j. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation, and;
 - k. 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.
- vi. The Conference noted the importance, in addition to Yemen 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 and Meetings of the States Parties as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.