

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

**21 December 2017**

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Angola for an extension of Angola's 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.
- ii. The Meeting expressed concern at the late submission of Angola's request for extension and noted that in order to function appropriately this process requires requests to be submitted nine months prior to the meeting during which they would be considered in order for an analysis of the request to be prepared and for a cooperative exchange between the requesting State and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to take place.
- iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Angola had not fully complied with the principle commitments it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, it is positive that Angola has made significant progress in garnering an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge.
- iv. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Angola ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting further encouraged Angola to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Angola fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Angola in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Angola in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Angola continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.
- v. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Angola was projecting that it would need approximately eight years to address its remaining challenge. The Meeting, in recalling that the implementation of Angola's national demining plan may be affected by new information, the level of resources obtained and the amount of external and internal capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Meeting requested that Angola submit to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Meeting requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organizations, and a revised detailed budget.
- vi. Also, in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as Angola has made it clear that the provision of external support is necessary to fully implement the plan contained within its request, Angola could inspire greater confidence on the part of those in a position to provide assistance by providing as soon as possible clarity regarding

estimated costs for implementation and clarifying the costs that Angola's State budget would cover as part of the overall costs of implementation.

- vii. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that as the success of the plan is contingent upon the findings of survey efforts, increased funding, increased capacity, coordination between national entities, the Convention would benefit from Angola informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following:
- a. The outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Angola's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
  - b. Progress made relative to the annual clearance plans, commitments and milestones contained in Angola's extension request;
  - c. The number, location and size of remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and nontechnical survey;
  - d. Progress made regarding efforts to resolve and eliminate problems related to data discrepancies, harmonization of the data of the Executive Demining Commission and the National Demining Institute and efforts to ensure the integrity of the national mine action database;
  - e. Efforts made to strengthen the implementation of the quality management system and results of efforts to update the norms and standards of management and quality control;
  - f. Efforts made to strengthen the involvement and the coordination of activities with the CED, and the result of these efforts;
  - g. Efforts made to strengthen the technical and operational capacities of the operations office in planning, monitoring and evaluation;
  - h. Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Angola to support implementation efforts, and the results of these efforts; including efforts to ensure that mine action is considered within national development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit Angola's resource mobilisation efforts.
- viii. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Angola 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, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.