

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

**30 November 2018**

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Sudan 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 April 2023.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Sudan had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made to complete implementation by its deadline in 2019, as recorded in the decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties, Sudan has made commendable progress and has committed to strengthening national capacity, to double its efforts to clear all hazards registered in the data-base, conduct survey of suspected hazardous areas to determine and clear confirmed hazardous areas.
3. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that Sudan was projecting that it would need approximately four years to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Meeting, in recalling that the implementation of Sudan's national demining plan may be affected by the security situation, requested that Sudan submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2020 and 31 March 2022, updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request containing an updated detailed list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisations, and a revised detailed budget.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Sudan continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), disaggregating by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and addressed through clearance. The Meeting further noted the importance of Sudan ensuring as soon as possible 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.
5. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that the provision of external support is necessary to fully implement the plan contained in its request. The Meeting underlined that Sudan could inspire greater confidence on the part of those in a position to provide assistance and show national ownership by taking the steps highlighted in its request, including by carrying out a review of its national mine action strategy in a transparent and inclusive manner, by mobilising more domestic resource, by engaging with international non-governmental organisations and by reinforcing coordination with donors to create a positive environment for mine action.
6. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of ensuring that the relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS be fully considered in Sudan's process of reviewing its National Mine Action Standards and Guidelines and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.
7. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Sudan is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the progress of implementation. The Meeting also noted that the plan's success is contingent on access to the remaining contaminated areas that are dependent upon improved security and progress of

political dialogue, the need for stable national funding and the mobilisation of international financial resources, engagement with international stakeholders and the creation of an environment conducive for organisations involved in mine action activities. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Sudan reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- (a) Progress in land release relative to the commitments made in Sudan's annual work plan, disaggregating outputs in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including consistent disaggregation between explosive hazards destroyed;
  - (b) Updates regarding mine survey assessments, related survey and deployment of clearance capacities in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, including the identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Sudan's work plan;
  - (c) Regular updates regarding changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
  - (d) Updates regarding the review of Sudan's national mine action Strategy and National technical Standard and Guidelines, including a clear timeline for the development of these processes and updates on 'data clean-up' efforts;
  - (e) Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts within the new Strategic plan, including resources made available by the Government of Sudan and external financing received to support implementation efforts and the effects of the funding level on the implementation of the work plan; and
  - (f) Updates regarding the structure of Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.
8. In addition to reporting as noted above, the Meeting further noted the importance of Sudan 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, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports employing the Guide to Reporting.