

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

20 November 2020

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Niger 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 2024.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while limited progress has been made in addressing the remaining areas since the last requesting period, Niger had taken measures to implement its obligations including through capacity building and strengthening, including through the training of deminers and the acquiring of equipment to carry out operations
3. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of Niger reporting in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size 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). The Meeting further noted the importance of Niger 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.
4. The Meeting noted the importance of Niger applying all provisions and obligations under the Convention to all types of anti-personnel mines, including anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5, and of Niger providing information disaggregated by type of mines. The Meeting further noted the importance of Niger providing information on the humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications of the request.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the work plan submitted by Niger does not contain annual milestones. The Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger submitting to the States Parties an updated detailed work plan containing annual milestone by 30 April 2021 covering the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting also noted the importance of the plan containing a detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities as well as provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. The Meeting further noted the importance of the work plan containing information on current resources/capacity available, as well as additional resources/capacity required to achieve completion by the deadline as well as the methodologies and standards that will be applied.
6. The Meeting further noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Niger's work plan during the extension period, providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS 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 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).

- b. adjusted milestones including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
 - c. progress on security-related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
 - 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 development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
 - f. progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
 - g. resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Niger to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and/or indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.
7. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Niger 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.