

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

Adopted, 2 December 2011

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by the Republic of the Congo for an extension of Congo's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing with regret to grant the request for an extension until 1 January 2013. In granting the request, the States Parties noted that the Republic of the Congo has been non-compliant with respect to its Article 5.1 obligations since 1 November 2011. The States Parties expressed that the unprecedented failure of the Republic of the Congo to complete implementation of Article 5 by 1 November 2011 or to have requested and received an extension on its deadline prior to that date represents a matter of serious concern.
- ii. Also in granting the request, the Meeting expressed concern that the Republic of the Congo 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 Meeting expressed regret in particular that the late submission of a request by the Republic of the Congo did not permit the President, Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs to carry out their mandate to analyse the request.
- iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that since the Republic of Congo submitted its initial transparency report in 2002, the Republic of Congo has provided no appreciable additional information to confirm or deny the presence of mines in the reported suspected area nor has it provided information, in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 7(f) on the status of programmes for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5. The Meeting also noted that the Republic of the Congo had not taken advantage of the repeated offers of support from the Implementation Support Unit and other competent actors to assist it in clarifying the presence or the absence of anti-personnel mines in mined areas nor had it made national resources available to do the same.
- iv. The meeting noted that by requesting a 14 month extension, the Republic of the Congo was committing to complete implementation of Article 5, paragraph 1 by 1 January 2013. The meeting further noted that if the Republic of the Congo believed it would be unable to complete implementation by that date, it must submit a second extension request no later than 31 March 2012 in order that it could be analysed and considered in an orderly manner at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties.
- v. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the commitments made by the Republic of the Congo in its request would greatly assist the Republic of the Congo and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. In this regard, the Meeting requested the Republic of the Congo, in accordance with Action 13 of the Cartagena Action Plan, to provide updates on these commitments at meetings of the Standing Committees and at Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties.
- vi. In the context of the seriousness regarding non-compliance by the Republic of the Congo with respect to its obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1, the States Parties agreed to work collectively in a spirit of cooperation to correct this situation and to prevent it from occurring again.