

Decisions on the request submitted by the Democratic 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 Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for an extension of the DRC's 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 January 2015.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while it may be unfortunate that after almost ten years since entry into force a State Party is unable to account for what remains to be done, it is positive that such a State Party, as is the case of the DRC, intends to take steps to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and to develop plans accordingly that precisely project the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation. In this context, the Meeting noted the importance of the DRC requesting only the period of time necessary to assess relevant facts and develop a meaningful forward looking plan based on these facts.
- iii. The Meeting further noted that by requesting a 26 month extension, the DRC was projecting that it would need approximately 2 years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge, produce a detailed plan and submit a second extension request. The Meeting noted the importance of the General Mine Action Assessment (GMAA) and the General Mine Action Survey (GMAS) to obtaining clarity and to producing a detailed plan. In this context, the Meeting noted the importance of the DRC keeping the States Parties apprised of efforts to implement the GMAA and GMAS and the outcomes of these efforts.
- iv. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, the DRC could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy, in part by providing clarity regarding estimated costs for implementation. In this context the Meeting noted the importance of the DRC keeping the States Parties apprised of steps to fulfill its commitments and of providing further details on the costs associated with implementation of Article 5.
- v. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that both the DRC and all States Parties could benefit if the DRC provided updates on all commitments made in its extension request at meetings of the Standing Committees and at Meetings of the States Parties.