

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

5 December 2013

- a. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Serbia an extension of Serbia'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 March 2019.
- b. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, given the importance of external support to ensure implementation, Serbia could benefit from developing a resource mobilization strategy as soon as possible. In this context the Meeting noted that Serbia's resource mobilization efforts could benefit from Serbia covering part of the demining cost and that demonstrating national ownership in this manner could help facilitate cooperation and assistance efforts.
- c. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Serbia is workable but lacks ambition. The Meeting further indicated that Serbia could find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested and that doing so could benefit both the Convention and Serbia itself given the indication by Serbia of the socio-economic benefits that will flow from demining.
- d. The Meeting noted that the annual benchmarks for progress contained in the request would greatly assist Serbia and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. In this regard, the Meeting requested that Serbia provide updates relative to these timelines at meetings of the Standing Committees, Meetings of the States Parties, and Review Conferences. The meeting further requested Serbia to keep the States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia's national financial contribution to implementation, efforts to mobilise external resources, and the results of these efforts
- e. The Meeting noted that all survey activities were scheduled to be complete by the end of 2015, which should result in Serbia having a more accurate understanding of its remaining implementation challenge. In this regard, the Meeting requested that Serbia submit to the States Parties, by 1 March 2016, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. 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 what quantity of area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organization, and a detailed budget.