

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

**4 December 2015**

- a. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extension of Ethiopia's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined area in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 June 2020. In granting the request, the States Parties noted that Ethiopia has been non-compliant with respect to its Article 5.1 obligations since 1 June 2015. The States Parties expressed that the failure of Ethiopia to complete implementation of Article 5 by 1 June 2015 or to have requested and received an extension on its deadline prior to that date represents a matter of serious concern.
- b. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that while it may be unfortunate that after almost eleven years after entry into force a State Party is unable to specify how much work remains to be carried out, it is positive that Ethiopia intends to renew efforts to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and develop plans accordingly. In this regard the Meeting noted the importance of the United Nation's International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS, in emphasising that evidence is required in order to define an area as either "suspected hazardous area" (i.e., an area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines) or "confirmed hazardous area" (i.e., an area known to contain anti-personnel mines).
- c. In granting the request, the Meeting, in noting that Ethiopia has provided a detailed work plan in its request up until the end of 2017 and noting its commitment to submit an updated plan by April 2017, noted that it would be beneficial if Ethiopia would submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2017, an updated work plan including an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and a detailed budget.
- d. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while the plan presented by Ethiopia is workable, ambitious and lends itself well to be monitored its success is contingent upon findings of survey efforts, stable funding and challenges posed by the security situation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ethiopia reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:
  - i. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in section 14 of its extension request;
  - ii. Outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ethiopia's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
  - iii. Updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in terms of suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas in line with the International Mine Action Standards;

- iv. Update on the development of plans to carry out survey activities on the Eritrean/Ethiopian border;
  - v. Resource mobilization efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Ethiopia to support implementation, and efforts to attract international mine action operators or advisors to offer technical support to Ethiopia;
  - vi. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.
- e. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that annual benchmarks for progress contained in the request would greatly assist Ethiopia and all States Parties in assessing progress made in implementation during the extension period. In this context, the Meeting requested Ethiopia to provide updates relative to these benchmarks at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences.
- f. In the context of the seriousness regarding non-compliance by Ethiopia with respect to its obligations under Article 5, paragraph 1, the States Parties agreed to continue working collectively in a spirit of cooperation to correct this situation and to prevent it from occurring in the future.