

Decision 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

4 December 2015

- a. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Niger for an extension of Niger's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1.
- b. The Meeting expressed concern that Niger 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 Niger did not permit the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to carry out their mandate to analyse the request.
- c. The Meeting noted that in order to function appropriately this process requires requests to be submitted nine months prior to the meeting during which they would be considered in order for an analysis of the request to be prepared and for a cooperative exchange between the requesting State and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to take place. In this context, the Meeting noted that Niger and the Convention as a whole would benefit from a full extension request process taking place, and agreed to grant Niger a one year extension until 31 December 2016. In addition, the Meeting requested that Niger submit a request, in accordance with the established process, by 31 March 2016, in order for Niger and the States Parties to benefit from a cooperative exchange on the request.
- d. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Niger in its present request is workable but lacks ambition. The Meeting further indicated that Niger could find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time indicated in its present request and that doing so could benefit both the Convention and Niger itself.
- e. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Niger had made great efforts to comply with the commitments it had made in 2013 to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and to report annually on progress, the present request does not contain a detailed annual work plan for clearance leading to completion with benchmarks for progress which would assist Niger and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. In this regard, the Meeting noted that it would be beneficial if Niger would submit to the States Parties, in its 31 March 2016 request, an updated work plan containing an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request.
- f. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger taking into consideration the observations of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation namely that Niger provide information on:

- i. The number, location and size of the remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by released through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey;
 - ii. External financing received and resources made available by the Government of Niger to support implementation; and
 - iii. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.
- g. Also in granting the request, the Meeting requested Niger to provide an update on the progress in meeting completion of its Article 5 obligations at the 2016 Intersessional Meetings.