

**Decision on the request submitted by Senegal 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 Senegal for an extension of Senegal'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 2021.
- b. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Senegal had largely sought to comply with the commitments it had made in 2008 to have a clearer knowledge of size and location of areas that will still warrant clearance including by technical surveys and developing a cancellation procedure, the full extent of the remaining challenge remains to be clarified and a detailed annual work plan for survey and clearance leading to completion and based on accurate and coherent data is still missing.
- c. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Senegal was projecting that approximately five years to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas would be necessary. The Meeting noted that, given that the implementation of the work plan is contingent upon further survey, the Meeting requested that Senegal submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2017, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. 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 area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisations, and a detailed budget.
- d. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of the United Nations 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 areas" (i.e., an area known to contain anti-personnel mines). In this regard, the Meeting noted that Senegal's adherence to IMAS guidance on this matter could provide greater clarity concerning the remaining challenge in Senegal.
- e. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that while the plan presented by Senegal is contingent upon findings of survey efforts, stable funding and challenges posed by the security situation. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Senegal reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:
  - i. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in section 4 of its extension request;
  - ii. Outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Senegal's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;

- iii. The number, location and size of remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey;
  - iv. Resource mobilization efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Senegal to support implementation;
  - v. Updates on the developments of the peace process dialogue which may lead to new areas becoming accessible for survey and clearance activities;
  - vi. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.
- f. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that annual benchmarks for progress contained in the request would greatly assist Senegal and all States Parties in assessing progress made in implementation during the extension period. In this context, the Meeting requested Senegal to provide updates relative to these benchmarks at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences.