

**Decisions 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
Convention¹**

28 November 2008

26. At its final plenary session, taking into account the analyses presented by the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties of the requests submitted under article 5 of the Convention and the requests themselves, the Meeting took the following decisions:

(...)

- xix. 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 unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2016.
- xx. 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 only beginning to obtain clarity regarding the challenge it faces and has demined very little, in the case of Senegal there were some compelling circumstance that impeded any work from progressing until 2005 and it is encouraging that Senegal has used the process of preparing its extension request to signal that it is now acting with greater urgency, notwithstanding that Senegal was slow to establish national structures following the 2004 cease-fire agreement and to make use of the findings of the Landmine Impact Survey which was completed in 2006. The Meeting further noted that Senegal does not yet have a clear knowledge of size and location of areas that will actually warrant mine clearance, its estimates for time and money required appear to be based solely on clearance assumptions, and the commitment made by Senegal to undertake technical survey activities and to develop a cancellation procedure may result in implementation that proceeds much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested and in a more cost-effective manner.

(...)

27. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting noted that many of the States Parties that had submitted requests for extensions had highlighted the importance of obtaining resources in order to implement the plans contained in their requests. The Meeting encouraged requesting States Parties, as relevant, to develop as soon as possible resource mobilisation strategies that take into account the need to reach out to a wide range of national and international funding sources. The Meeting furthermore encouraged all States Parties in a position to do so to honour their

¹ Excerpts from the Final Report of the 24 November – 28 November 2008 Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, United Nations Document # APLC/MSP.9/2008/4.

commitments to fulfilling their obligations under article 6.4 of the Convention to provide assistance for mine clearance and related activities.

28. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting noted that the accounting of the remaining mined areas contained in many extension requests would serve as a foundation for a resource mobilisation strategy and greatly assist both requesting States Parties and all others in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. The Meeting encouraged those requesting States Parties that have not yet done so to provide an accounting of annual milestones of progress to be achieved during extension periods. The Meeting furthermore encouraged all States Parties whose requests had been considered by the Ninth Meeting to provide updates relative to their accounting of remaining mined areas and/or annual benchmarks for progress at meetings of the Standing Committees, at the Second Review Conference and at Meetings of the States Parties.
29. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting warmly welcomed the report presented by the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties on the process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extensions to Article 5 deadlines, as contained in document APLC/MSP.9/2008/WP.35, and agreed to encourage States Parties, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations contained therein.