

Decisions on the Request Submitted by Venezuela 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:

(...)

xxxi. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) for an extension of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela'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 October 2014.

xxxii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while no demining had taken place in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) since entry into force, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had nevertheless made a clear commitment through its extension request to start mine clearance operations and ultimately comply with its obligations by 1 October 2014. The Meeting also noted that, while impeding circumstances listed by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) in its request would continue to exist during the extension period, with speedy establishment of a demining program and acquisition of mechanical demining assets, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) may find itself in a situation wherein it could complete implementation before October 2014 and that this could benefit the Convention.

(...)

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 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

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.

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.