

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

Adopted, 2 December 2011

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Eritrea for an extension of Eritrea'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 February 2015.
- ii. 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 unable to account for what remains to be done, it is positive that such a State Party, as is the case of Eritrea, intends to take steps to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and to develop plans accordingly that precisely project the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation. In this context, the Meeting noted the importance of Eritrea requesting only the period of time necessary to assess relevant facts and develop a meaningful forward looking plan based on these facts.
- iii. The Meeting further noted that by requesting a 3 year extension, Eritrea was projecting that it would need approximately 3 years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge, produce a detailed plan and submit a second extension request. The meeting noted that it would be beneficial if Eritrea was able to do so in less than three years given the indication by Eritrea of the socio-economic benefits that will flow from implementing Article 5 and the prediction that survey needed to establish an understanding of the remaining contamination would be finished before the deadline.
- iv. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, as Eritrea has made it clear that external support is necessary for implementation, the importance of Eritrea developing 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. In this context, the Meeting noted that Eritrea might benefit from outreach to international mine action operators or advisors in order to take advantage of the latest survey methods, equipment and lessons learned on land release as well as to access additional sources of international funding.
- v. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that both Eritrea and all States Parties could benefit if Eritrea provided updates on progress made in obtaining clarity regarding the remaining challenge and in producing a detailed plan at meetings of the Standing Committees and at Meetings of the States Parties.