

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

- a. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Zimbabwe for an extension of Zimbabwe'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 January 2015.
- b. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Zimbabwe had not complied with the principal commitment it had made in 2010 to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and to develop plans accordingly, Zimbabwe had made efforts to build its capacity and improve its efficiency by engaging the support of international organizations and developing survey and clearance plans for the remaining areas.
- c. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while it may be unfortunate that after almost thirteen 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 Zimbabwe, intends to reinvigorate efforts 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 Zimbabwe requesting only the period of time necessary to assess relevant facts and develop a meaningful forward looking plan based on these facts.
- d. The Meeting further noted that by requesting a 24 month extension, Zimbabwe was projecting that it would need approximately two-and-one-quarter years from the date of submission of its revised request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge, produce a detailed plan, and submit an extension request for fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations. The meeting further noted that Zimbabwe, in accordance with the decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the State Parties, should submit its subsequent extension request nine months prior to the Third Review Conference.
- e. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Zimbabwe making use of the full range of practical methods to release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines, as recommended by the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, and encouraged Zimbabwe to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Zimbabwe fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame.
- f. Also in granting the request, the Meeting requested that Zimbabwe provide updates at the meetings of the Standing Committees in 2013 and at the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request, and observations contained in the analysis on the request, including with respect to the following:
 - i. The commitments made by Zimbabwe to develop national standards, relocate the mine action centre out of military cantonment, develop a national strategic plan and work with implementation partners to ensure a common approach to reporting and information management.
 - ii. The annual milestones for progress as summarised in paragraph 17.7 of the analysis of the request submitted by extension request.

- iii. Zimbabwe's resource mobilization plan and efforts that the government of Zimbabwe is making to raise the profile and priority of mine clearance operations to the international community, including, international donor countries that could be in a position to contribute resources
- iv. Zimbabwe's efforts to speed administrative procedures for implementing partners to carry out their work in an expedient manner.