

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

26 June 2014

- a. The Conference 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 2018.
- b. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Zimbabwe had not complied with the principal commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and to develop plans accordingly and precisely project the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation, Zimbabwe had made progress in this regard and has carried out 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. In granting the request, the Conference noted that by requesting a three year extension, Zimbabwe was projecting that it would need approximately three and a half years from the date of submission of its request to clarify the remaining challenge, understand what progress will be possible once partners operate at full capacity and once additional support has been identified, produce a detailed plan, and submit a subsequent extension request for fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations.
- d. The Conference noted that it is important that Zimbabwe request only the period of time necessary to assess relevant facts and develop a meaningful forward looking plan based on these facts. Given that survey activities are scheduled to be completed by September 2014, which should result in an accurate understanding of the remaining implementation challenge, the Conference requested that Zimbabwe submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that this 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 organizations, and a detailed budget.
- e. Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Zimbabwe informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following:
 - i. Updates relative to commitments noted in paragraphs 13 and 22 of the analysis of Zimbabwe's request,
 - ii. The commitment made by Zimbabwe to relocate the mine action centre out of military installations,
 - iii. The commitment made by Zimbabwe to develop and implement a national strategic plan,
 - iv. The plans of the HALO Trust and Norwegian People's Aid to increase its capacity,
 - v. Resources obtained relative to needs expressed in the request, including resources provided by the Government of Zimbabwe itself, and
 - vi. Additional efforts made by Zimbabwe and the results of these efforts to make use of the full range of practical methods to release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines, in accordance with the United Nations Mine Action Standards.