

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

**21 December 2017**

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Thailand for an extension of Thailand'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 31 October 2023.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Thailand had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by its deadline in 2018, Thailand has made commendable progress and has committed to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.
- iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Thailand was projecting that it would need approximately five years to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Meeting, in recalling that the implementation of Thailand's national demining plan may be affected by pending survey and demarcation of land boundaries, and noting Thailand's commitment to submit an update work plan by the end of Phase 1 of its presented plan, the Meeting requested that Thailand submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Meeting requested that this work 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 revised detailed budget.
- iv. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Thailand ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting further encouraged Thailand to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Thailand fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Thailand in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Thailand in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Thailand continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.
- v. The Meeting noted the commitment made by Thailand to employ more efficient working methods and expanding of its civilian demining capacity. The Meeting further noted the commitment made by Thailand to work with its neighbours to address mined areas located in border areas.
- vi. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while the plan presented by Thailand is workable, ambitious and lends itself well to be monitored its success is contingent upon negotiations on areas to be demarcated, the expansion of the demining programme, the application of non-technical survey and extending the pilot project in

an effort to use the full range of practical methods to release areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Thailand informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following:

- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Work Plan contained in Thailand's request;
  - b. Update on efforts put forth during Phase 1 of Thailand's Plan of Work to prepare for Phase 2 of the Work Plan including the progress of negotiations in order to address Areas to be Demarcated;
  - c. The outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Thailand's estimation of the remaining implementation challenge;
  - d. Update on progress in updating the National Mine Action Standards to be in line with the latest version of IMAS and the results of this effort;
  - e. Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Thailand to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to expand its civilian demining capacity and the results of these effort;
  - f. Updates on efforts to explore new technology to help survey areas with are hard to access near the borders and the results of these efforts;
  - g. Update on efforts to make continuous improvements in the capacity of its information management team, systems and processes to enable more precise information on survey and clearance operations to be collected and displayed.
- vii. The Meeting further noted the importance, in addition to Thailand reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.