

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

21 December 2017

- i. 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 unanimously to grant the request for extension until 31 December 2025.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Zimbabwe had proceeded with implementation in a commendable manner since its last request for an extended deadline was granted in 2014, having garnered an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and developed plans accordingly that project the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5.
- iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the States Parties as a whole would benefit from Zimbabwe's commitment to keep the States Parties informed of changes to the work plan. The Meeting further noted both the inclusive approach taken by Zimbabwe in the preparation of its request and the commitment by Zimbabwe to continue this inclusive approach in implementing and revising, as necessary, the plan contained in the extension request.
- iv. The Meeting recalled that the implementation of Zimbabwe's national demining plan will be affected by new information, the level of resources obtained, a better understanding of the clearance capacity of new operators as well as new methodologies being implemented and assessed, and the amount of external or internal capacity involved in survey and clearance. The Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Zimbabwe submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2019, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee noted that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, and a revised detailed budget.
- v. The Committee further noted that the plan presented by Zimbabwe is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Committee also noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is contingent upon stable funding and other matters creating an environment conducive to increasing the capacity of organizations involved in clearance activities. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Zimbabwe reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Zimbabwe's annual clearance plan during the extension period;
 - b. Updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards, including land release standards;
 - c. Updated detailed annual plans for the implementation of its extension request based on new information gathered from progress in implementation;

- d. Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land, including reporting outcomes concerning two pilot projects concerning mechanical Assets and Mine Detection Dogs;
 - e. Progress on Zimbabwe's commitment to relocate the ZIMAC outside of military installations, once the Ministry of Defence obtains required funds;
 - f. Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Zimbabwe to support implementation efforts;
 - g. Information on Zimbabwe's efforts to ensure that mine action is considered within national development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit Zimbabwe's resource mobilisation efforts.
- vi. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Zimbabwe 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 Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.