

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

**30 November 2018**

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Croatia for an extension of its 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 1 March 2026. In granting the request, the Meeting acknowledged that Croatia had declared that it would finalise all operations and verification by 31 December 2025 and hence fulfil its Article 5 obligations in line with the aspiration of the States Parties in the Maputo + 15 Declaration
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, even with a consistent and sizeable effort having been undertaken by Croatia going back even before entry into force of the Convention, Croatia faces a significant remaining challenges in order to fulfil its obligations under Article 5.
3. Also in granting the request, given that increased clarity concerning the remaining challenge will only be progressively acquired as non-technical survey continues, the Meeting requested that Croatia submit to the States Parties updated work plans every two years (i.e. by 30 April 2020, 30 April 2022 and 30 April 2024) for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that these work plans should contain an updated detailed list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget.
4. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that subject to the results of survey operations and the development of methods and techniques for addressing forested areas, Croatia may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested. The Meeting further noted that Croatia may benefit from discussing this technical challenge with other States Parties that may have experience in clearing similar terrain and which have faced similar challenges.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Croatia continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating by areas cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and addressed through clearance. The Meeting further noted the importance of Croatia ensuring as soon as possible 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.
6. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Croatia is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Meeting further noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is based on significant allocations of funds from the State budget and contingent upon stable international funding, retaining strong partnerships with international stakeholders and other matters. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Croatia reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:
  - (a) Progress in continuing land release relative to the commitments made in Croatia's annual work plan, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Croatia's work plan;

- (b) Updates regarding the full range of practical methods used to release land, in line with the latest land release standards, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems in forested areas as well as relevant information on the training of national mine personnel, operators, in new methodologies and quality control, with reference to relevant national standards;
  - (c) Updates regarding the development and implementation of Croatia's National Mine Action Strategy (2019-2026)
  - (d) Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available in the Croatian State budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts, including European Union Structural and Cohesion funds, and Cross-border Cooperation funds;
  - (e) Updates regarding the structure of Croatia's mine action programme, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.
7. In addition to reporting as requested above, the Meeting noted the importance of Croatia 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 to Reporting.