

Decisions on the request submitted by the United Kingdom 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 the United Kingdom 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 2024.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that clarity concerning the remaining challenge at Yorke Bay is pending technical survey and that the results of technical survey will only be available at the end of 2018 or early 2019. The Meeting therefore requested that the United Kingdom submit updated work plans by 30 April 2020 and 30 April 2022 for the remaining period covered by the extension period. The Meeting noted that the work plans 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 each year during the remaining period disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Meeting noted that given that the United Kingdom is committed to acting swiftly following the receipt of information related to the technical survey, the United Kingdom may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested.
3. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by the United Kingdom is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Meeting also noted that the plan is based on continued implementation of land release and contingent upon stable allocation of funding from the United Kingdom's State budget. In this regard, and noting the United Kingdom's commitment to keep the States Parties informed of progress, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from the United Kingdom reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:
 - (a) Progress in land release activities relative to the commitments made in the United Kingdom's work plan, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including the results of the technical survey of Yorke Bay and its effect on the work plan; and
 - (b) Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts to ensure continual support for implementation efforts and avoid delays in implementation.
4. In addition to reporting as requested above, the Meeting noted the importance of the United Kingdom 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 employing the Guide to Reporting.