

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

29 November 2019

- i. The Conference assessed the request submitted by Tajikistan for an extension of its 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 31 December 2025.
- ii. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Tajikistan had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made to complete implementation by its deadline in 2020, as recorded in the decisions of the Second Review Conference, and while it is unfortunate that after almost two decades of intensive humanitarian demining efforts Tajikistan does not have a precise definition of its remaining contamination, Tajikistan has made commendable progress and has committed to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.
- iii. In granting the request, the Conference noted that Tajikistan was projecting that it would need approximately five years and eleven months to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Conference, in recalling that the implementation of Tajikistan's national demining plan may be affected by pending survey and agreements on survey and clearance in border areas as well as the feasibility of deploying mechanical assets, requested that Tajikistan submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2021 and by 31 October 2023, a updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget.
- iv. Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that both Tajikistan and all States Parties would benefit if Tajikistan's national demining plan incorporated its intentions concerning mined areas it has reported along the Tajik-Uzbek border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along the Tajik-Uzbek border. The Conference noted Tajikistan's commitment in keeping the States Parties informed by reporting on information on and plans to deal with mined areas along Tajikistan's common border with Uzbekistan.
- v. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Tajikistan ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention, including ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed. The Conference further encourage Tajikistan to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques, which could lead to Tajikistan fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Tajikistan in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Tajikistan in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.

- vi. The Conference noted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared. The Conference further noted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to report on its remaining contamination in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas.
- vii. Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that, while the plan presented by Tajikistan is ambitious but lends itself well to be monitored, its success is contingent upon the results of ongoing survey efforts, negotiations to address its border area, the expansion of the demining capacity and significant contribution from the State budget and stable international funding. In this regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Tajikistan informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:
- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Tajikistan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared and their impact on annual targets as given in Tajikistan's work plan;
 - b. Progress on the agreement between the Governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan regarding survey and clearance of areas on their common border, including information on the national institutions involved in the effort;
 - c. Updates regarding the identification, recruitment, training and deployment of an additional 90 deminers and support personnel, including information on the gender and diversity of newly recruited personnel in line with Tajikistan's "Gender and Diversity Mine Action Strategy";
 - d. Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available from Tajikistan's state budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts;
 - e. Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land, including reporting outcomes concerning the feasibility and deployment of mechanical assets;
 - f. Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
 - g. Updates regarding the structure of Tajikistan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.
- viii. The Conference noted the importance, in addition to Tajikistan 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, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.