

Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the

Request for extension submitted by Senegal

Mr. President (Chair),

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation welcomes the efforts made by Sénégal in the preparation of its extension request, which have allowed for a cooperative dialogue to take place between Senegal and the Committee.

The Committee also welcomes the comments on this request provided by expert organizations, including from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Mines Advisory Group, Humanity and Inclusion and the Mine Action Review.

- On 15 June 2020, Senegal submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 March 2021 deadline.
- Following dialogue with the Committee, Senegal submitted additional information on 22 September.
- Senegal's request is for five years, until 1 March 2026.

In analysing Senegal's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee.

- The Committee noted that while progress has been made, a significant effort remain to be carried out to acquire a more precise picture of the remaining challenge. In this regard the committee noted the importance of Senegal continuing to update its work plan based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones on an annual basis and on how priorities have been established.
- The Committee noted that areas to be addressed are impacted by insecurity and of the importance of dialogue to ensure access mined areas as soon as possible. The Committee welcomed the efforts by Senegal to ensure access and the fact that non-technical survey would resume in some areas.
- The Committee highlighted the importance of Senegal's efforts to ensure that its national mine action standards remain up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), adapting them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.
- The request indicates that several circumstance may impact positively or negatively on the milestones given in the plan, including, a) the support of two international partners to provide necessary capacity to carry out planned demining activities, b) precarious security conditions, which require the collaboration of MFDC for access to target areas, implying long negotiations and unstable agreements, and c) overcoming the drop of financial resources that has occurred since 2014.
- The Committee recognized the importance of Senegal carrying out context-specific mine risk education in mine affected areas.

In recalling that the implementation of Senegal's national demining plan may be affected by the precarious security conditions and the need for collaboration of the MFDC for access to target areas, amongst other matters, and that following the first years of implementation circumstances may changes, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Senegal submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2023, for the remaining period covered by the

extension. The Committee noted that the work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the plan presented by Senegal is workable, lends itself to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Committee also noted that the plan is based on allocations from State budgets and contingent upon stable international funding.

In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Senegal reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Progress in implementation of Senegal's work plan, including annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and clearance through clearance);
- b. The impact of annual progress on annual targets as given in Senegal's work plan, including updates to Senegal's national work plan, based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones, including on the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed annually, and on how priorities have been established;
- c. Progress on security related access matters and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
- d. Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
- e. Updates regarding detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities;
- f. Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including efforts in approaching potential donors and organisations in order to fund and assist in the implementation of clearance operations and the result of these efforts, including an expected timeline for recruitment, training and management of new or additional capacities;
- g. Update on efforts by Senegal to strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention (e.g. establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders) and the results of these efforts, and;
- h. Progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Senegal 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 to Reporting.