

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

20 November 2020

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Mauritania 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 31 January 2022.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while it is unfortunate that Mauritania, having declared completion of its Article 5 obligations under the Convention, had discovered previously unknown mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, the Meeting welcomed Mauritania's adherence with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties on how to address such situations.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed the fact that Mauritania is requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information. The Meeting further noted Mauritania's commitment to submit another request by 31 March 2021 containing plans based on a clearer understanding of the extent of the challenge and which project with greater certainty the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation.
4. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Mauritania developing its request through an inclusive process, taking into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities and including the following information, amongst other:
 - a. detailed , costed and multi-year work plan for the extension period, containing information on progress made, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with the 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 based on new funding levels;
 - b. detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account;
 - c. plans for the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
 - d. the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension;
 - e. resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Mauritania to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance, in addition to Mauritania 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 and Meetings of the States Parties, as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.

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