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

1. The meeting assessed the request submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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 December 2025.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation of its Article 5 commitments, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made progress in this regard, has highlighted efforts to address key factors affecting implementation and has committed to efforts to fulfil its obligations during the extension period.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a three-and-a-half-year extension, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was projecting that it would need approximately three and a half years from the date of submission of its request to update its national strategy and develop a plan for its implementation, continue mine risk education activities, mobilize national and international resources for implementation and carry out survey and clearance of the remaining mined areas.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting highlighted the importance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting noted that doing so would benefit the Democratic Republic of the Congo in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination and reporting on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is in the process of updating its mine action strategy, developing a work plan for its implementation and mobilizing resource for implementation, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that the work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas remain to be addressed by which organisations

during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting emphasized the request should contain an updated context specific mine risk education and reduction plan.

7. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by the Democratic Republic of the Congo is workable, lends itself to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation including the need to ensure consistent national and international funding and issues related to security. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from the Democratic Republic of the Congo reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts 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 cleared through clearance);
 - b. The impact of survey outcomes in Aru territory (Ituri Province) and Dungen territory (Haut-Uele Province) and how additional clarity obtained changes the Democratic Republic of the Congo's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge, providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination;
 - c. Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
 - d. Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
 - e. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support implementation efforts;
 - f. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
 - g. 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; and
 - h. Progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.
8. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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