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# Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

18 November 2021

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Nineteenth Meeting  
The Hague, 15-19 November 2021

## Draft Final report

### I. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction provides in Article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2, that the States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention. At the Fourth Review Conference (Oslo, 26-29 November 2019), the States Parties agreed to convene annually, until the Fifth Review Conference, a Meeting of the States Parties for up to five days at the end of November or beginning of December.<sup>1</sup> The Conference further decided to hold the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in the Netherlands, in 2021 and to elect Ambassador Robbert Jan Gabriëlse of the Netherlands, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties.<sup>2</sup>

2. The Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16-20 November 2020) agreed to hold the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, the week of 29 November – 3 December 2021.<sup>3</sup> On 2 April 2021 the President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties circulated a proposed change of date and location for the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties which was approved through silent procedure by the States Parties and subsequently transmitted to all on 27 April 2021. To prepare for the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, in keeping with past practice, a provisional agenda and a provisional programme of work were made available at the 22-24 June 2021 Intersessional Meetings of the Convention. During the 2021 Intersessional Meetings of the Convention, the President further informed delegations of arrangements for the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to be held on 15-19 November 2021 in The Hague. To seek views on matters of substance and organization of work, an informal meeting was also convened on 17 September 2021 to which all States Parties, States not party and interested organizations were invited to participate.

### II. Organization of the Meeting

3. The Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties was opened on 15 November 2021 by Ambassador Robbert Jan Gabriëlse of the Netherlands, President of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties. Due to restrictions imposed in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties was held virtually. A high level ceremonial opening ceremony featured a musical performance by Gaidaa and messages by the Minister for Trade and Development of the Netherlands, Tom de Bruijn; the Convention's Special Envoy, HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad Bin Zeid Al Hussein of Jordan; the Vice-Minister for International

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<sup>1</sup> Final document, APLC/CONF/2019/5, paragraph 34 (i).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., paragraph 35 (b).

<sup>3</sup> APLC/MSP.18/2020/10, paragraph 108.



Cooperation of the Netherlands, Kitty van der Heijden; the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Under-Secretary-General Izumi Nakamitsu; the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Gerard Quinn; the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Gilles Carbonnier; the Director of the Iraqi Disability Alliance, Moaffak Alkhfaji, on behalf of mine survivors; the Executive Director, Human Rights Watch's (HRW) Arms Division, Steve Goose, on behalf of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL); and, the President of the Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Barbara Haering.

4. A high-level panel entitled “Strengthening localization through capacity building and inclusion: from rhetoric to concerted action” was held on 15 November 2021 as part of the opening of the Meeting with the participation of the Coordinator of the Programme for Comprehensive Action Against Anti-Personnel Mines of Colombia Martha Hurtado; Programme Officer, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) Beng Conny Akerblom; the founder and Co-Director of the Global Mentoring Initiative (GMI), Smruti Patel; the Director of Iraqi Health and Social Care Organization (IHSCO), Dr Ahmed Al Zubaidi; Chief Executive Officer, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Darren Cormack. The high-level panel was moderated by the Vice-Minister for International Cooperation of the Netherlands, Kitty van der Heijden.

5. At the first plenary session, on 15 November 2021, the Meeting adopted its agenda, as contained in document APLC/MSP.19/2021/1, and its programme of work, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/2.

6. Also at the first plenary session, Colombia, Germany, Norway, Panama, Poland, Sweden, Thailand, and Zambia were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of Ambassador Marriet Schuurman, Director of the Department for Stabilization and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, as Secretary-General of the Meeting. The Meeting also took note of the appointment, by the United Nations Secretary-General, of Peter Kolarov, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva Branch, as Executive Secretary of the Meeting, and of the appointment, by the President, of Juan Carlos Ruan, Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), as the President’s Executive Coordinator.

### **III. Participation in the Meeting**

7. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules of procedure, the following States Parties participated in the Meeting: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

8. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules of procedure, the following States participated in the Meeting as observers: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic, and United States of America.

9. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Rules of procedure, the following international organizations and institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as

observers: European Union (EU), GICHD, ICBL, ICRC, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, ISU of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Organization of American States (OAS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

10. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 4, of the Rules of procedure, the following other organizations attended the Meeting as observers: Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) James Madison University, Handicap International/Humanity and Inclusion, iMMAP, International Trust Fund – Enhancing Human Security (ITF), MAG, Norwegian People’s Aid, Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation, Swiss Mine Action Foundation (FSD), and The HALO Trust.

11. A list of all delegations and delegates to the Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.16/2021/INF.1.

#### **IV. Work of the Meeting**

12. The Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties held ten plenary sessions between 15 and 19 November 2021. During the second and the ninth plenary sessions, States Parties and observer delegations delivered statements of a general nature.

13. At the second and the third plenary sessions, the States Parties that submitted requests for extensions in accordance with Article 5, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Convention, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia, and Turkey, presented their requests, the executive summaries of which are contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.1, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.3, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.2, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.7, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.4, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.5, and APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.6, respectively. In addition, Zambia, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation presented analyses relating to requests for extensions of Article 5 deadline, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.11, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.14, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.10, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.13, as orally amended, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.9, APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.8, and APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.12, respectively. During the same plenary session, the States Parties considered the status of non-compliance of Eritrea and expressed deep concern with this situation.

14. During its third through eighth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the general status and operation of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention’s goals and in the application of the Oslo Action Plan 2019 – 2024, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/6 and APLC/MSP.19/2021/7.

15. At the third, fourth and fifth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance. In particular, Thailand, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as Algeria, as Committee’s in-coming Chair, introduced the report of the Committee on its “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022”, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/9. Updates on progress and challenges were provided by States Parties responsible for significant numbers of landmine survivors on their efforts to fulfil obligations and on the steps they have taken to implement the victim assistance actions of the Oslo Action Plan, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

16. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance the meeting noted the persistent challenges in the implementation of Victim Assistance including those related to the lack of financial means and highlighted the importance of continued support to Victim Assistance and making continued progress in integrating Victim Assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, and to health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction in support of the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

17. At the fifth sixth and seventh plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. In particular, Zambia, in its capacity as the

Chair of the Committee, as well as Belgium, as Committee's in-coming Chair, introduced the report of the Committee on its "Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022", as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/8. Updates were provided by States Parties that are still in the process of clearing mined areas pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

18. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Meeting noted the persistent challenges associated with implementation including the need to maintain and increase financial resource for implementation, ensure the continued improvement of applied methodologies and the need to ensure that States Parties gain clarity on remaining contamination and address this contamination as soon as possible in line with the States Parties ambitions of progressing in implementation, to the fullest extent possible, by 2025. The Meeting further noted the challenges posed by the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature. The Meeting noted the importance of States Parties continuing to implement and report on the implementation of their Oslo Action Plan.

19. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Meeting welcomed the commitment of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, to continue strengthening the Article 5 extension request process and adherence to the relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan, including by drawing on input from all relevant stakeholders.

20. At the sixth and seventh plenary session, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. In particular, Colombia, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as Japan, as Committee's in-coming Chair, introduced the report of the Committee on its "Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022", as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/10. States Parties and other interested States and organisations provided views on cooperation and assistance and the conclusions and priorities of the Committee.

21. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, the Meeting noted the importance of States Parties making full use of the tools available to the States Parties, such as the Individualized Approach, to share challenges and requirements for support. The Meeting further noted the the importance of the application of the relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan, such as the establishment of national mine action platforms, to foster cooperation and assistance and support the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention by States Parties as soon as possible. The Meeting noted the importance of States Parties strengthening cooperation on implementation in line with the Oslo Action Plan.

22. At the seventh plenary session, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. In particular, the President, in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee, presented the report on the Committee's "Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022", as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/11. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

23. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, the Meeting noted the importance of continued transparency in the implementation of the Convention and noted the importance of the obligation to submit transparency reports in line with Article 7 of the Convention highlighting progress in implementation of their Convention obligations in line with the Oslo Action Plan. The Meeting noted the critical nature of this aspect of the Convention to ensure the success of our collective implementation efforts.

24. Also in the context of the consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting discussed progress made and persistent challenges that remain in destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines. In particular, the President reported on the status of implementation of Article 4 obligations. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organisations. The Meeting warmly welcomed the announcement by Sri Lanka of the completion of its Article 4 obligations ahead of 1 June 2022 deadline .

25. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the States Parties recognized the importance of States Parties which are in non-compliance with Article 4 of the Convention of addressing challenges in implementation and to present a time-bound plan for completion and urgently proceed with implementation as soon as possible in a transparent manner, regularly informing States Parties on progress made and remaining challenges in accordance with the Oslo Action Plan.

26. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed actions that had been undertaken since the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties in the pursuit of the universalization of the Convention. In particular, the President reported on activities aimed at the universalization of the Convention. Updates were provided by States Parties, States not party, as well as by interested organisations.

27. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention the Meeting noted that universalization is a responsibility of all States Parties and highlighted the importance of sustainable actions on Universalization. The Meeting further noted the importance of putting forth concerted efforts to ensure an increase in the number of the States Parties in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference and strengthening the norms of the Convention.

28. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed the transparency reporting responsibilities of the States Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention. In particular, the President presented “Amendments to the Guide to Reporting adopted by the States Parties at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties in line with the decision of the Fourth Review Conference”, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/14.

29. Also in the context of the consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting noted that the reporting rate remains too low and reiterated the importance of States Parties with no obligations under the Convention making use of the simplified tools created by the States Parties to facilitate reporting. The Meeting noted the importance of the States Parties adhering Article 7 of the Convention and the relevant commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.

30. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” and the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”<sup>4</sup>, which instructed the ISU to propose and present every year a work plan and detailed yearly budget for the ensuing year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval, the Meeting considered the “Implementation Support Unit 2022 Budget and Work Plan”, presented by the Director of the ISU and endorsed by the Coordinating Committee, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/4.

31. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, in recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, which tasked the ISU to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties and to submit an audited annual financial report for the previous year and a preliminary annual financial report for the present year to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting considered a 2021 “Interim Report - Activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit” presented by the Director of the ISU, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/13, as well as the “Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2020”, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/3.

32. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decision on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting noted that (a) the financial security buffer contained an amount equivalent to one year of

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<sup>4</sup> APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.1

expenditures related to core support as provided for in the ISU yearly budget and that (b) no additional surplus was to be allocated to implement the ISU Work Plan in 2022.

24. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting discussed the status of the assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention by States Parties and States not party participating in the meetings pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention and the budget deficit resulting from outstanding unpaid balances, as well as measures to ensure sustainable financing for the meetings.

33. Also in the context of the consideration of the the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting considered the report of the Sponsorship Coordinator, Australia, on the Sponsorship Programme. The Meeting noted the urgent need for more States Parties, which are in a position to do so, to contribute to this Programme to ensure broad participation in the 2022 intersessional meetings and the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting noted that continuing to give mine-affected States Parties a strong voice in the future direction of the Convention through the Sponsorship Programme is critical.

34. At the ninth plenary session, the Meeting considered the status of assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention. In particular, the President presented a proposal on financial matters that would allow the United Nations to close the accounts for each financial period within 12 months of the conclusion of that financial period, as requested by the Fourth Review Conference.<sup>5</sup>

## V. Decisions and Recommendations

35. The Meeting reaffirmed the determination of the States Parties to the Convention to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, including anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, and their commitment to strengthen their efforts in order to achieve their common goals of a mine-free world and the full and equal inclusion of survivors and victims. In keeping with the Oslo Action Plan, the Meeting condemned the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including by armed non-State actors.

36. The Meeting also noted with appreciation the voluntary declaration of completion submitted by the United Kingdom in line with recommendation #1 contained in the “Reflections and understandings on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations” by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.

37. In the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention and reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Conventions aims and in the application of the Oslo Action Plan 2019-2024, the Meeting warmly welcomed the Progress Report 2020-2021, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/6 and APLC/MSP.19/2021/7, as an important means to support the application of the Oslo Action Plan by measuring progress made after the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties and highlighting priority areas of work in the period between the Nineteenth and Twentieth Meetings of the States Parties, as well as providing an updated baseline value for all indicators of the Oslo Action Plan based on the data reported in the second year of implementation.

38. In the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting took note of the activities by the President to promote the universalization of the Convention and its norms. The Meeting took note that no additional accessions to the Convention have taken place since 2017. The Meeting called upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

39. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that have indicated having a responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors as well as the activities of and the priorities for implementation in 2021-2022 by the Committee on Victim Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/9. The Meeting expressed particular concern about

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<sup>5</sup> APLC/CONF/2019/5, paragraph 42 (b) (ii)

continued casualties caused by anti-personnel mines and the importance of working to address the needs and rights of mine victims in all parts of the world.

40. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that have Article 5 obligations as well as the activities of and the priorities for implementation in 2021-2022 by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/8.

41. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention and taking into account the analyses presented by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation of the requests submitted under Article 5 of the Convention and the requests themselves, the Meeting took the following decisions:

#### **A. Decision on the request submitted by Cyprus**

42. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Cyprus 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 July 2025.

43. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that - as in its request for extension of its 1 July 2022 deadline - Cyprus has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that it does not have effective control over the remaining areas in question. The Meeting further noted the importance of Cyprus providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas as Cyprus has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.

#### **B. Decision on the request submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

44. 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.

45. 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.

46. 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.

47. 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).

48. 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.

49. 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.

50. 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 Dungu 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.

51. 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

### C. Decision on the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau

52. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau for an extended 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 extended deadline until 31 December 2022.

53. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while it is unfortunate that Guinea-Bissau, having declared completion of its Article 5 obligations under the Convention, has discovered previously unknown mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, the Meeting welcomed Guinea-Bissau's adherence with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties on how to address such situations.

54. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed the fact that Guinea-Bissau 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. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau ensuring that survey activities take into account best practices in a manner consistent with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

55. The Meeting noted Guinea-Bissau's commitment to submit a subsequent request by 31 March 2022 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. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau 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. A detailed , costed and multi-year work plan for the extension period, containing information on progress made, the result of assessment efforts, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, using terminology consistent with the IMAS and disaggregated by the type of explosive ordnance, annual projections of which areas and amount of area would be dealt with during the requested extension period and by which organisation, matched to a detailed budget;
- b. An overview of the survey and clearance methodologies to be employed, including the standards to be employed;
- c. A 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;
- d. Plans to address the challenges faced by the National Mine Action Coordination Center (CAAMI) and efforts to ensure the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, discovered following completion;
- e. 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;
- f. The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension with information on victims disaggregated by gender and age; and
- g. Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Guinea-Bissau to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

56. The Meeting further noted the importance, in addition to Guinea-Bissau 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

#### **D. Decision on the request submitted by Mauritania**

57. 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 December 2026.

58. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Mauritania had complied with the principal commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information and developed a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information.

59. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a four year and eleven month extension, Mauritania was projecting that it would need approximately five years from the date of submission of its request to build capacity of the National Humanitarian Demining Program for Development (PNHD), carry out survey efforts to further delimit the mined areas, ensure strengthening and maintenance of the national database, continue with its mine risk education and reduction efforts, mobilize national and international resources, carry out clearance of the remaining mined areas and establish a sustainable demining capacity.

60. In granting the request, the Meeting noted Mauritania's plan to review and approve its National Mine Action Standards (NMA) and highlighted the importance of Mauritania ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Mauritania in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Mauritania in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Mauritania 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).

61. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Mauritania ensuring that mine risk education and reduction efforts continue in affected communities and that plans are developed in a manner that ensures that activities are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, are sensitive to gender and age and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Meeting further welcomes Mauritania's efforts to ensure the development of sustainable national mine risk education and reduction capacities and to report on progress in this regard in a manner disaggregated by gender and age.

62. In noting that Mauritania has provided assumptions and risks to implementation including the fact that delays in securing funding will have an impact on the timeline presented for implementation and the need to ensure stable funding, the Meeting requested that Mauritania submit 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 will be addressed by which organisation 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.

63. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request and subsequently in response to the Meeting's questions is comprehensive and clear. The Meeting noted that the plan presented by Mauritania is ambitious and contingent upon stable international funding, partnerships with international stakeholders and a stable security situation. The Meeting, nonetheless, noted that the plan presented by Mauritania is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect progress in implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Mauritania reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Mauritania's work plan with progress in survey and clearance presented in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
- b. Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Mauritania'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. Annual adjusted milestones, including the number of mined areas and amount of area to be addressed, and on how priorities have been established;
- d. Updates on Mauritania's efforts to approve updates to its NMAS, in accordance with the latest IMAS;
- e. Updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
- f. 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;
- g. Updates on efforts to maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation;
- h. Updates on the cooperation with neighbouring countries to address border mined areas;
- i. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Mauritania to support implementation, including to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and national capacities; and
- j. Updates regarding the structure of Mauritania's mine action program, including existing and new organizational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

64. The Meeting 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.

## **E. Decision on the request submitted by Nigeria**

65. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Nigeria 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.

66. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Nigeria has largely fulfilled the commitments it had made, as recorded by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information and provide, amongst other matters, information on security and access challenges faced by Nigeria in carrying out survey and clearance operations, a plan for mine risk education and

reduction efforts, plans for the establishment of a national capacity to address the remaining challenge and information on resources made available from the government of Nigeria and international sources.

67. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a four-year extension, Nigeria was projecting that it would need approximately four years from the date of submission of its request to prepare the groundwork for non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance, as well as to liaise with partners to carry out survey and clearance once the affected areas become accessible. The Meeting noted that during the extension period Nigeria has committed to establish a national mine action center, develop national mine action standards, strengthen partnerships and coordination for land release and mine risk education activities, continue information collection efforts to obtain clarity regarding remaining contamination, develop a national mine action strategy and produce a detailed plan for implementation. The Meeting noted that it is positive that Nigeria is requesting only the period of time necessary to strengthen its capacity and gather and assess data on progress made and remaining contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan.

68. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Nigeria's efforts to develop National Mine Action Standards (NMAS). In this regard, the Meeting highlighted the importance of Nigeria ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Nigeria in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Nigeria in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Nigeria 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).

69. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Nigeria strengthening national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of Nigeria's obligations under the Convention, including through the establishment of an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.

70. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Nigeria 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.

71. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Nigeria's request for extension does not contain a clear detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for survey and clearance and that the planned activities highlighted in the request may be affected by changing circumstances, the level of resources obtained and the amount of external and internal capacity involved in survey and clearance operations. The Meeting requested that Nigeria submit 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 this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines, to the extent possible, annual costed projections of which areas will be addressed by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities indicating how priorities have been established. The Meeting further noted that this work plan should be developed in an inclusive manner taking into consideration gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

72. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Nigeria, is contingent upon national and international support, the security situation, the establishment of a national mine action center and strengthening of national coordinating mechanisms and

partnerships in implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Nigeria reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Nigeria's work plan, including progress in the establishment of a National Mine Action Centre, development of National Mine Action Standards, strengthening coordination of delivery of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, information collection efforts and the development of a National Mine Action Strategy and associated work plan;
- b. Progress made in survey and clearance activities presented in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
- c. Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Nigeria'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;
- d. Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of mined areas and total area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- e. Updates on Nigeria's efforts to establish a national information management system and its data collection efforts to ensure that Nigeria maintains accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation;
- f. Updates on efforts to strengthen coordination amongst partners in Nigeria, including by consideration to the establishment of a national mine action platform to ensure regular dialogue;
- g. Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, priorities for implementation, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
- h. 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;
- i. Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts including resources made available by the Government of Nigeria, including through the empowerment and provision to State entities of the required human, financial and material capacity to carry out its Article 5 commitments, and external financing received to support implementation efforts and the effects of the funding level on the implementation of the work plan; and
- j. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

73. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Nigeria reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its 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 Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

## **F. Decision on the request submitted by Somalia**

74. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Somalia 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 October 2027.

75. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that after 10 years of implementation efforts since entry into force of the Convention, the totality of efforts and progress made by Somalia since entry into force and the remaining challenge are unclear. The Meeting further noted Somalia's commitment to strengthen and increase its capacity to assess progress made, obtain clarity regarding its remaining Article 5 challenges and address it as soon as possible.

76. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a five-year extension, Somalia was projecting that it would need approximately five years from the date of submission of its request to strengthen the capacity of the Somalia Explosive Management Agency (SEMA) including its information management capacity, strengthen partnerships and coordination for land release and mine risk education activities, undertake non-technical survey operations in secure areas to obtain clarity regarding remaining contamination, produce a detailed plan and submit a further extension request. The Meeting noted that it is positive that Somalia is requesting only the period of time necessary to strengthen its capacity and gather and assess data on progress made and remaining contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan.

77. In granting the request, the Meeting highlighted the importance of Somalia ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Somalia in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Somalia in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Somalia 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).

78. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Somalia strengthening national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of Somalia's obligations under the Convention, including through the establishment of an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.

79. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of the Somalia 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.

80. The Meeting, in noting that Somalia's request for extension does not contain a clear detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for survey and clearance and that the planned activities highlighted in the request may be affected by changing circumstances, the level of resources obtained and the amount of external and internal capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Meeting requested that Somalia submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for survey and clearance including, amongst other matters:

- a. A detailed, costed work plan for implementation of Non-Technical Survey (NTS) including information on the available assets to conduct NTS, the cost for the NTS as well as the areas where NTS will be prioritised;
- b. A list of all accessible areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual milestones of which areas and how much area is to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established for the remaining period covered by the request and a revised detailed updated budget; and
- c. A detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities as well as provisions for a sustainable national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered.

81. The Meeting noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is based on significant contribution from the international community, improvement in the current

security situation, access to mined areas, and improvement in coordination. In this regard, the Meeting noted that, in addition to the matters highlighted above, the States Parties would benefit from Somalia reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Somalia's work plan, including progress made in the implementation of Phase 1 and Phase 2;
- b. Results of survey and clearance efforts, reported in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
- c. Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Somalia'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;
- d. Annual adjusted milestones, including the number of mined areas and amount of mined area to be addressed, and on how priorities have been established;
- e. Updates on Somalia's efforts to update its National Mine Action Standards in accordance with the latest IMAS;
- f. Updates on Somalia's efforts to strengthen its national information management system and its data collection efforts to ensure that Somalia maintains accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation;
- g. Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, priorities for implementation, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
- h. 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;
- i. Updates on efforts to strengthen coordination amongst partners in Somalia, including by consideration to the establishment of a national mine action platform to ensure regular dialogue;
- j. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- k. Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts including resources made available by the Government of Somalia, including through the formal institutional approval for SEMA and approval of national budget allocations, and external financing received to support implementation efforts and the effects of the funding level on the implementation of the work plan; and
- l. Updates regarding the structure of Somalia's mine action program, including existing and new organizational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

82. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Somalia 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.

## **G. Decision on the request submitted by Turkey**

83. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Turkey 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.

84. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Turkey had not been able to complete the implementation of the principal commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by its deadline, Turkey has made commendable progress and has committed to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge.

85. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a three year and nine-month extension, Turkey was projecting that it would need approximately three years and nine months from the date of submission of its request to carry out clearance activities and Non-Technical Survey of remaining mined areas, continue mine risk education activities, mobilize national and international resources and submit by 31 March 2025 a plan for completion of its Article 5 commitments. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed the fact that Turkey 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.

86. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Turkey's efforts to ensure 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 could benefit Turkey in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Turkey in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Turkey 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).

87. The Meeting further noted the importance of Turkey ensuring the application of all provisions and obligations under the Convention to contamination by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregate by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.

88. In granting the request, the Meeting, in noting that Turkey provided implementation milestones for the period of 2021-2023 as well as the stated assumptions and risks to implementation, the fact that the different projects will be carried out through mine clearance contractors, the need to ensure timely tender and contracting procedures, the need to ensure stable funding as well as the continued challenges posed by COVID- 19, the Meeting further noted that the Convention would benefit from Turkey 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 emphasised the request should contain an updated context specific mine risk education and reduction plan.

89. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Turkey is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Turkey reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Turkey's work plan, including progress in tendering and contracting of implementation partners for survey and clearance and the results of survey and clearance efforts, reported in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
- b. Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Turkey'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. 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 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;
  - f. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Turkey to support implementation efforts; and
  - g. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

90. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Turkey reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its 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 Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

## H. Decision on Eritrea

91. The Meeting considered the state of non-compliance of Eritrea following Eritrea’s failure to present a request for extension ahead of its 31 December 2020 deadline under Article 5. The Meeting expressed serious concern that Eritrea, in spite of the call from the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties and repeated outreach from the current and past Presidents and Convention office holders, has not engaged in a cooperative dialogue and remains in a situation of non-compliance. The Meeting reiterates its call on Eritrea to engage in a cooperative dialogue without delay with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and submit a request for extension no later than 31 March 2022 for consideration by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties in accordance with the process established by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting noted that, failing the establishment of a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea and resolution to the current status of non-compliance, the States Parties should consider seeking clarification and resolving questions relating to compliance by Eritrea through the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 8.2 of the Convention. The Meeting noted that the President and office holders of the Convention stand ready to sustain a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea to see that we can overcome this situation as soon as possible and support Eritrea in reengaging in the work of the Convention.

92. In the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting recalled the establishment by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties of a process for extension requests submitted under Article 5<sup>6</sup> and the importance of adhering to this process. The Meeting also recalled the endorsement at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties of the recommendations contained in the “Reflections on the Extension Request Process” paper<sup>7</sup> and encouraged States Parties, as appropriate, to continue implementing these recommendations. In particular, the Meeting recalled that late submission of requests impede the efforts of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation by limiting opportunities for interaction between the Committee and requesting States Parties and resulting in some analyses being completed much later than they normally should have been, thus affecting the ability of all States Parties to engage in a cooperative dialogue as

<sup>6</sup> APLC/MSP.7/2006/5.

<sup>7</sup> APLC/MSP.12/2012/4.

envisioned by the process. Against this background the Meeting reiterated the importance of timely submission of the extension requests, in accordance with the established process. The Meeting invited the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in the context of the consideration of the activities the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, to continue strengthening the Article 5 extension request process and the adherence to the relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan, including by drawing on input from all relevant stakeholders.

93. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the work of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance as well as the updates on cooperation and assistance provided by States Parties and organisations.

94. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the activities of and the priorities for implementation in 2021-2022 by the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/11.

95. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the update on the progress provided by Greece and Ukraine on the destruction of their stockpiled anti-personnel mines. The Meeting appealed to the States Parties which are in non-compliance with their Article 4 obligations to intensify efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.

96. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting emphasised the importance of all States Parties reporting updated information annually in accordance with Article 7. The Meeting approved the amendments to the Guide to Reporting, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/14, and encouraged States Parties to make use of the tools developed to facilitate reporting, including the Guide to Reporting, as well as to seek the support of the Implementation Support Unit in the preparation of their reports.

97. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” and the relevant decision by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting approved the “Implementation Support Unit 2022 Budget and Work Plan”, as endorsed by the Coordinating Committee and as contained in document APLC/MSP.19/2021/4. In the context of the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, the Meeting also approved the 2021 “Interim Report - Activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit”, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/13, as well as the “Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2020”, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/3.

98. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ relevant decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting commended the Dutch presidency for organising, on 23 February 2021, a successful virtual pledging conference for the implementation of the Convention, which featured the participation of the Vice-Minister for International Cooperation of the Netherlands, Kitty van der Heijden.

99. In the context of considering the financial status of assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties, the Meeting noted the continuing unstable/unpredictable financial situation due to late payment and arrears of assessed contributions and underlined the importance to ensure full compliance with Article 14 obligations. The Meeting called upon the States Parties and States not party participating in the Meetings of the States Parties to address issues arising from outstanding dues. The Meeting requested the States Parties and States not party participating in the meetings of the States Parties to proceed promptly with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment invoices have been received.

100. Also in the context of considering the financial status of assessed contributions, the Meeting welcomed the President’s efforts to address matters related to financial predictability and sustainability of United Nations assessed contributions. The Meeting took note with regret that an agreement could not be reached on the proposal and requested the President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties to continue to consult with a view of submitting a proposal for adoption at the next Meeting of the States Parties.

101. The Meeting decided to continue the dialogue on this matter, to closely monitor the financial situation of the Convention, and to address this issue at the next Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting requested the United Nations and the Implementation Support Unit to continue their efforts in raising awareness and ensuring transparency on the status of contributions on a monthly basis by making information available and sending periodic reminders.

102. The Meeting welcomed the interest expressed by States Parties to serve as new members of Committees and decided on the following membership of the Convention's Committees:

(a) Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Belgium and Sri Lanka (until the end of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties) and France and Iraq (until the end of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties);

(b) Committee on Victim Assistance: Algeria and Ecuador (until the end of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties), and Italy and Uganda (until the end of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties);

(c) Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: Japan and Sudan (until the end of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties), and the Netherlands and Thailand (until the end of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties);

(d) Committee on Cooperative Compliance: Chile and Spain (until the end of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties), and Switzerland and Turkey (until the end of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties).

103. The Meeting agreed to set the dates of the intersessional meetings for 22-24 June 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, subject to availability of conference space.

104. The Meeting agreed to hold the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland, the week of 21-25 November 2022 and to elect Ambassador Alicia Victoria Arango Olmos, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting took note that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed its firm objection to the aforementioned election, and its positions and reservations are contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.2. However, considering the important role of the Convention, Venezuela respected the consensus.

105. The Meeting further decided to hold the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland<sup>8</sup>, the week of 20-24 November 2023, and adopted its estimated costs, as contained in APLC/MSP.19/2021/5. The Meeting took note of the interest expressed by Germany to preside over the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties.

## VI. Documentation

106. A list of documents of the Eighteenth Meeting is contained in the annex to this report.

## VII. Adoption of the final report

107. At its final plenary session, on 19 November 2021, the Meeting adopted its final report.

<sup>8</sup> Not precluding any future interest expressed by a State party to preside over and host the Meeting

**Annex****List of documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.19/2021/1	Provisional agenda. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.19/2021/2	Provisional programme of work. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.19/2021/3	Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2020
APLC/MSP.19/2021/4	Implementation Support Unit 2022 Budget and Work Plan. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.19/2021/5	Estimated costs for the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction
APLC/MSP.19/2021/6	Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Progress Report 2020-2021. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.19/2021/7	Oslo Action Plan – Status of Implementation. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.19/2021/8	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.19/2021/9	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022. Submitted by the Committee on Victim Assistance
APLC/MSP.19/2021/10	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022. Submitted by the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
APLC/MSP.19/2021/11	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022. Submitted by the Committee on Cooperative Compliance
APLC/MSP.19/2021/12	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.19/2021/13	Interim Report - Activities, functioning and finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.19/2021/14	Amendments to the Guide to Reporting adopted by the States Parties at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties in line with the decision of the Fourth Review Conference. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.19/2021/15	Final report
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.1	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
	with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by the Cyprus
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.2	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Guinea-Bissau
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.3	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Democratic Republic of the Congo
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.4	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Nigeria
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.5	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Somalia
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.6	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Turkey
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.7	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Mauritania
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.8	Analysis of the request submitted by Somalia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.9	Analysis of the request submitted by Nigeria for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.10	Analysis of the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.11	Analysis of the request submitted by Cyprus for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.12	Analysis of the request submitted by Turkey for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.13	Analysis of the request submitted by Mauritania for an extension of the deadline for completing the

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
	destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.19/2021/WP.14	Analysis of the request submitted by 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. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.1 English/French/Spanish only	Provisional List of Participants
APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.2 English only	Explanation of position on the occasion of the election of the Chairperson of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties. Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.3	Situación particular de las Islas Malvinas. Submitted by Argentina
APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.4	Explanation of Position on the “State of Palestine”, Submitted by Australia, the Czech Republic, Germany and the Netherlands
APLC/MSP.19/2021/CRP.1	Draft Final report
APLC/MSP.19/2021/INF/1 English/French/Spanish only	List of Participants

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