

## **Decision on the request submitted by Sudan 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 Sudan 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 April 2027.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Sudan had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made to complete implementation by its deadline of 1 April 2023 as recorded in the decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, Sudan has made commendable progress. The Meeting further noted Sudan's continued commitment to the implementation of Article 5.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Sudan was projecting that it would need approximately four years to complete the survey of suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas in accessible areas. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Sudan 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 Sudan in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Sudan in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Sudan 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).
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of the Sudan 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.
5. In granting the request the Meeting noted the important of Sudan ensuring the provision for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.
6. In granting the request the Meeting noted that Sudan's implementation is contingent on access to the remaining contaminated areas that are dependent upon improved security and progress of political dialogue, the need for stable national funding and the mobilization of international resources, engagement with international stakeholders and the creation of an environment conducive for organisations involved in mine action activities. In granting the request the Meeting further noted that the Convention would benefit from Sudan reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Sudan'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) and disaggregated by type of contamination addressed;
  - b. The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Sudan's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;
  - c. The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes as well as by type of contamination;
  - d. Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed manually and how priorities have been established;
  - e. Progress in the development and approval of a costed and time-bound national strategy through inclusive consultations with women, girls boys and men and further updates on the timeline and process for the approval of its national strategy in this regard;
  - f. Annual updates on changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively impact implementation;
  - g. 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;
  - h. Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Sudan to support implementation efforts;
  - i. Updates regarding the structure of Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion; and
  - j. Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities.
7. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Sudan 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.