

Decision on the request submitted by Thailand 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 Thailand 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.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Thailand had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by its deadline of 31 October 2023, Thailand has made commendable progress. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Thailand was projecting that it would need approximately three years to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Thailand 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 Thailand in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Thailand in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Thailand 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 Thailand 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 the important of Thailand ensuring the provision for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion as soon as possible.
7. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as the national demining plan may be affected by outcomes from the process of border coordination activities and the implementation of the multi-level framework in support of joint demining activities, as well as potential reduction in funding, the Convention would benefit from Thailand submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2024, 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 anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, and a revised detailed budget.

8. In granting the request the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Thailand is workable and lends itself well to be monitored and states clearly those factors that could affect progress in implementation. The Meeting further noted that as the plan is contingent upon the result of negotiations on access to areas to be demarcated the Convention would benefit from Thailand reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Thailand'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 and clearance outcomes and update on how additional clarity obtained may change Thailand's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;
 - c. Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed manually and how priorities have been established;
 - d. Updates on the proposed "Pilot Project on Demining Cooperation along the Border of Thailand and Cambodia" including information on projected steps and timeline for endorsement and approval;
 - e. Updates on the outcomes of border coordination activities and the implementation of the multi-level framework in support of joint demining activities;
 - f. 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;
 - g. Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Thailand to support implementation efforts, including projected gaps in funding.
 - h. 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.
9. In granting the request the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Thailand 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.