

## **Decision on the request submitted by Yemen 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 Yemen 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 March 2028.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the continued difficult circumstances faced by Yemen in its efforts to implement the decisions of the Fourth Review Conference to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination and carry out clearance to fulfil its obligations during the extension period. The Meeting further noted Yemen's continued commitment to strengthen and increase its capacity to implement its commitments under Article 5.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a five-year extension, Yemen was projected that during the extension period Yemen aims to continue with ongoing emergency mine action, implementation of the Yemen Baseline Landmine Survey in accessible areas, including re-survey, to establish a new baseline and development of the capacity of the mine action sector to meet the current challenge. The Meeting noted that Yemen is requesting the period of time necessary to strengthen its capacity and gather and assess data on contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop meaningful forward looking implementation plans.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting highlighted the importance of Yemen 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 Yemen in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impact outlined by Yemen in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Yemen 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). The Meeting further noted the importance of Yemen providing information on Improvised Explosive Devices in a disaggregated manner to provide clarity on the threat faced by Yemen.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Yemen carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

6. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Yemen could benefit from developing as soon as possible a resource mobilisation strategy. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Yemen strengthening national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of Yemen's obligations under the Convention, including through the establishment of an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.
7. In granting the request, and noting that Yemen has indicated that the submission of a work plan offering detailed milestones of progress and the amount of time needed to fulfil Yemen's commitments under Article 5 would be unrealistic at this time and its commitment to the development of annual and monthly plans for implementation, noted that the States Parties would benefit from Yemen submitting annually by 30 April, attached to its Article 7 report, its annual work plan for implementation including information on milestones and projections of which areas would be targeted for survey and clearance by which organization as well as a detailed, costed, context-specific plan for mine risk education and reduction efforts. The Meeting further noted that the submission of annual plans by Yemen would facilitate the work of the Committee to measure progress in implementation of Yemen's Article 5 obligations.
8. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that as the implementation of Yemen's Article 5 obligations will be affected by new information, the level of resources obtained, changes in the security environment, and the amount of capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Convention would benefit from Yemen submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2024 and 30 April 2026 for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee noted that these work plans should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation and a plan for MRE matched to a revised detailed budget.
9. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the States Parties would benefit from Yemen reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
  - a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Yemen's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land released methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through NTS, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance) with the results disaggregated by the type of explosive ordnance identified and destroyed;
  - b. The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and update on how additional clarity obtained may change Yemen's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;

- c. The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes as well as by type of contamination;
  - d. Methodologies employed for survey and clearance efforts;
  - e. Information on progress in building the capacity of Yemen to address the remaining challenge, including efforts to approve its NMAS, strengthen information management, and the acquisition of necessary equipment;
  - f. Updates regarding efforts to ensure the exclusion of civilians from mined areas including through 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. Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of mined areas and amount of area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
  - h. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively impact annual milestones for emergency clearance and baseline survey of known and suspected mined areas;
  - i. 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, and;
  - j. Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Yemen to support implementation efforts.
10. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that in addition to Yemen 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, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.