

Decision on the request submitted by Ukraine 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 Ukraine 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 December 2033.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the continued unprecedented circumstances faced by Ukraine in its efforts to implement the decision of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination and fulfil its obligations under Article 5 during the extension period. The Meeting further noted Ukraine's continued commitment to strengthen and increase its capacity to implement its commitments under Article 5 of the Convention.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted, in line with the recommendation of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation¹ which takes into account recommendations and best practices welcomed by the States Parties, in particular the identified "value of States Parties 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, and then submitting a second request 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"², the commitment of Ukraine to present to the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the States Parties in 2028 a detailed overview of the national situation including a) the progress made since the granting of its request for extension; b) the remaining challenge, and; c) the plan to address this challenge by the 1 December 2033 deadline.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine 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 Ukraine in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impact outlined by Ukraine in its request are addressed as effectively as possible.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of Ukraine 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. The Meeting also noted the importance of Ukraine 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).

¹ Analysis of the request submitted by Ukraine for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention APLC/MSP.21/2023/WP.4

² Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process APLC/MSP.12/2012/4

6. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine 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.
7. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Ukraine would benefit from developing as soon as possible a resource mobilisation strategy. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Ukraine strengthening national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of Ukraine's obligations under the Convention.
8. In granting the request, the Meeting, in noting the volatility of the present situation in Ukraine and the need for Ukraine to adjust its work plan, noted that the Convention would benefit from Ukraine submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2024, and each subsequent year, an updated detailed work plan containing, amongst other: a) an updated list of all identified mined areas in accordance with IMAS (i.e. disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination (e.g. anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, explosive remnants of war etc.)); b) annual projections of the areas where survey and clearance efforts will take place by which organisations and the methodologies to be employed; c) annual plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities and methodologies to be employed; d) how priorities have been established, and; e) a detailed budget for implementation.
9. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted that the detailed work plan should also contain information on how Ukraine ensures consideration for gender, age, disability and takes the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in its implementation efforts.
10. In granting the request the Meeting further noted that the successful implementation of Article 5 by Ukraine is contingent on access to the remaining contaminated areas, the need for stable national funding and the mobilization of international financial and technical resources, and engagement with international stakeholders. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ukraine reporting in its annual Article 7 transparency report annually, by 30 April, the information required as per the Guide for Reporting.ⁱ
11. In granting the request the Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine reporting on the matters noted above as well as keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 and other commitments made in the request at Intersessional Meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

ⁱ Including:

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- a. Progress and results of survey and clearance activities, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information 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) and how additional clarity obtained may have altered Ukraine's assessment of the remaining challenge;
- b. Progress and results in implementation of mine risk education and reduction activities, the challenges faced, and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
- c. The remaining challenge, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination (e.g. anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, explosive remnants of war etc...);
- d. An updated work plan based on new evidence containing clear milestones, including information as highlighted in numeral 9 of the decision;
- e. Updates on the steps taken by Ukraine to ensure the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation;
- f. Updates on the socio-economic impact of mined areas, including casualty data disaggregated by geographic location of the accident, age, gender, and disability;
- g. Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts (e.g. the development of a resource mobilisation plan), including resources made available from Ukraine's state budget and external financing received to support its annual work plan, potential gaps in funding, as well as equipment and other technical resources that could be potentially filled by the international community.

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