

Draft decisions on the request submitted by Niger for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

29 November 2024

1. The Conference assessed the request submitted by Niger 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 2029.
2. In granting the request, the Conference noted that it was unfortunate that no clearance operations took place over the course of Niger's last extension period. The Conference noted, however, that progress has been made in other areas to support implementation including the development of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), drafting of standard operating procedures, training and retraining of deminers, training and deployment of community liaison personnel, and demining equipment acquisition. The Conference further noted Niger's plan to initiate mine clearance operations in 2025.
3. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, information provided on its remaining challenge could be communicated with greater clarity and in an unequivocal manner by reporting in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) including by reporting in a disaggregated manner by suspected hazardous areas (SHA) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHA). The Conference further noted that greater clarity could be provided by reporting on the type of contamination addressed, to confirm if the areas in question are contaminated by anti-personnel mines or other explosive remnants of war.
4. In granting the request, the Conference noted that Niger has reported being affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised explosive devices. In this regard, the Conference recalled the importance of Niger applying all provisions and obligations under the Convention to all types of anti-personnel mines, including anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5, and of Niger providing information disaggregated by type of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.
5. In granting the request, the Conference noted the challenges faced due to several factors including security. In this regard, the Conference noted that it would welcome Niger providing information on changes in the security situation and on how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.
6. In granting the request, the Conference noted that Niger would be in a position to complete implementation as soon as possible with increased national and international cooperation and Assistance. In this regard, the Conference noted the importance of Niger developing a resource mobilization plan.
7. In granting the request, the Conference noted that the work plan submitted by Niger does not contain annual milestones and requested that Niger submits updated detailed work plans containing annual milestones by 30 April 2025 and by 30 April 2027, covering the remaining period covered by the extension. The Conference 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, matched to a revised detailed budget based on new funding levels. The Conference further noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress made relative to the survey and clearance commitments contained in Niger's work plan, including survey and clearance efforts in areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature in the Diffa, Tillabéry and Tahoua regions, providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS, 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), including the national standards employed;
- b. the impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Niger's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation, including adjusted annual milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- c. the remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS by 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. progress on efforts to apply all provisions and obligations of the Convention also to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, and to disaggregate information by type of mines;
- e. updates on Niger's efforts to approve its NMAS including updates in accordance with the latest IMAS;
- f. progress on security related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
- g. efforts to ensure consideration for the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities as well as climate and environmental considerations in the implementation of the Convention;
- h. the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of contamination including information on victims disaggregated by gender and age;
- i. efforts to develop and implement 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;
- j. progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;

- k. resource mobilization efforts, external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Niger to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and/or indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.
8. In granting the request the Conference noted the importance, in addition to Niger 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.