

Analysis of the request submitted by Angola for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Algeria, Norway, Thailand (Chair), United Kingdom)**

1. Angola ratified the Convention on 5 July 2002, and the Convention entered into force for Angola on 1 January 2003. In its initial transparency report submitted on 14 September 2004 Angola reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Angola was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 January 2013. Since this time, Angola submitted requests for extension to the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) in 2012 and the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) in 2017. On each occasion, the Meetings of the States Parties agreed unanimously to grant Angola its request for extension. The request for extension granted to Angola by the 16MSP was for eight years, until 31 December 2025.
2. In granting Angola's request, the 16MSP noted, amongst other, that while Angola had not fully complied with the principle commitments it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the 12MSP, it is positive that Angola has made significant progress in garnering an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge. In granting the request, the 16MSP also noted the importance of Angola 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 and the importance of Angola seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Angola fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame.
3. Angola, believing that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by its deadline, submitted on 28 March 2025 to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation ("the Committee") a request for an extension of its deadline. On 27 June 2025, the Committee wrote to Angola to request additional information. On 5 August 2025, Angola provided a response to the questions posed by the Committee as well as a revised request for extension incorporating its responses. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Angola had submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee. Angola's request is for five years, until 31 December 2030.
4. The request indicated that during the previous extension period 950 mined areas measuring 147,869,036 square metres were addressed resulting in the destruction of 12,367 anti-personnel mines, 2,363 anti-tank mines and 11,060 items of other explosive ordnance (EO). The request indicates that as a result of these efforts 9 provinces (Huambo, Zaire, Benguela, Luanda, Namibe, Kwanza Norte, Uíge, Icolo e Bengo and Malanje) are nearing completion. The Committee wrote to Angola to request additional information on progress made in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Angola indicated in its response that of the total 147,869,036 square metres addressed, 70,056,526 square metres were cancelled, 14,404,107 square metres were reduced and 63,408,403 square metres were cleared. The Committee noted the importance of Angola providing information on progress made in a manner consistent with IMAS by disaggregating information by the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey (NTS), reduced through technical survey (TS), or cleared through clearance) including information on the type of EO located and destroyed.

5. The request also indicates that during the extension period previously unknown mined areas were discovered in several location, particularly in the provinces of Bié, Cuando, Cubango, Malanje, Moxico, and Moxico Leste. The Committee wrote to Angola to request additional information regarding the situation which led to the discovery of previously unknown mined areas, as well as Angola's assessment—where possible—of the likelihood of further discoveries based on historic experience and its understanding of current contamination. Angola indicated in its response that the discovery of previously unknown mined areas is due to the fact that previous surveys did not cover the entire national territory due to various reasons (e.g. inaccessibility, lack of information sources in remote areas, scarcity of minefield maps). Angola further indicated in its response that complementary surveys, including consultations with communities, population movements, expansion of housing, in addition to other factors, have led to the discovery of previously unknown mined areas.
6. The request indicates that during the extension period, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities were "somewhat lethargic" due to lack of funding. The request indicates that this has resulted in few EORE activities have been implemented by public operators. The request indicates that, despite this, non-governmental organisation carry out EORE activities in the areas where they have ongoing clearance activities. The request provides information on the beneficiaries of EORE activities disaggregated by gender and age.
7. The request indicates that, in collaboration with the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and operators, in particular non-governmental organizations, Angola has improved the definition of contamination by prioritising nationwide NTS activities, reducing previous overestimations. The request also highlights, that an important effort in this regard has been Angola's parallel efforts to maintain and strengthen its information management system. The request further indicates that thirteen National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) were developed and updated during the previous extension period, including those related to land release. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Angola is making use of the full range of practical methods to release, with a high level of confidence, suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), in accordance with IMAS. The Committee encourages Angola to continue seeking improved land release techniques which could lead to Angola fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame.
8. The request indicates that during the extension period the national mine action structure was strengthened with the establishment of the National Mine Action Agency (ANAM) by Presidential decree 172/21 replacing the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance. The request also indicates that the National Demining Centre (CND) was established by Presidential decree 212/22 merging the National Demining Institute, the Executive Demining Commission, the Demining Brigades of the Armed Forces and the Demining Brigades of the Military House of the President of the Republic of Angola.
9. The Committee wrote to Angola to request information on the existence of a national coordination mechanisms — such as a National Mine Action Platform— to facilitate regular dialogue with stakeholders. Angola indicated in its response that the ANAM is responsible for national coordination and facilitates regular dialogue with stakeholders, including donors, on progress, challenges and requirements for assistance. Angola also indicated in its response that coordination mechanisms include coordination and planning meetings and technical and operational meetings at national and provincial levels, and that meetings are also held with international donors. The Committee noted the importance of Angola providing information on national coordination efforts, including efforts to establish a national mine action platform to ensure regular dialogue with all stakeholders.

10. The request indicates the following factors which, in Angola's view, acted as impeding circumstances during the extension period; a) size of the territory; b) long duration of the conflict; c) complexity of the contamination associated with the number of players involved; d) climate, vegetation and terrain (e.g., sandy, mountainous); e) lack of minefield maps; f) reduced number of demining operators; g) reduced funding; h) COVID-19 pandemic; i) public operators prioritising national reconstruction projects and not areas recorded in the National Database; and j) difficult access to some mined areas.
11. The request also indicates that demining of high-density areas with low-metallic mines in the southeast of the country has led to increased accidents. The request indicates that, in response to this situation, the NMAA and operators reviewed the situation and acquired GPZ 7000 detectors and excavators, though these have not delivered the expected results.
12. The request indicates a remaining challenge of 854 mined areas measuring 57,068,936 square metres including 79 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 2,191,193 square metres and 886 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 54,877,743 square metres. The request indicates that the provinces of Moxico, Bié, Cuando, and Cubango remain the main areas of concern and that previously unknown mined areas have been discovered in several locations, particularly in the provinces of Bié, Cuando, Cubango, Malanje, Moxico, and Moxico Leste. The request further indicates that a total of 111 roads measuring approximately 4,007 kilometres are also pending to be addressed. The Committee noted the importance of Angola reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, by disaggregating by SHA and CHA and their relative size including by disaggregating between the type of contamination to ensure increased clarity on the remaining challenges.
13. The request indicates that during the previous extension period there were 421 casualties (151 killed, 270 injured) and provides data disaggregated by gender and age. The request highlights the socioeconomic impact of mines, including restricted access to arable land, tourism sites, and infrastructure development. The request indicates that environmental consequences include land degradation and harm to wildlife, notably in conservation areas, where mines have killed endangered species like the Giant Black Antelope and disrupted migratory patterns of elephants and wildebeests. The Committee noted the importance of Angola continuing to provide data on casualties in a manner disaggregated by gender and age and noted that progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Angola.
14. As noted, Angola's request is for a five-year period until 31 December 2030. The request states that the work plan aligns with the National Development Plan 2023–2027, the National Strategic Mine Action Plan 2026–2030, and the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan 2025–2029. The request indicates that planned activities include: clearing CHAs, surveying and demining SHAs, EORE, assessing socioeconomic impact, promoting quality and environmental best practices, progressively declaring provinces mine-free, and implementing the residual risk strategy.
15. The request indicates that the remaining challenges will be addressed by public operators and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) within their assigned provinces, under NMAA coordination. The request indicates that the strategy involves first completing provinces with lower contamination, then reinforcing capacity in highly affected provinces with Benguela, Cuanza Norte, Huambo, Icolo e Bengo, Luanda, Malanje, Namibe, Uíge, and Zaire prioritized for clearance. The request indicates that Huambo, Zaire, Namibe, Cuanza Norte, Uíge, and Malanje provinces are expected to be declared free of known mined areas by December 2026.

16. The work plan includes annual milestone for the period of 2026-2030 including 199 mined areas measuring 12,593,263 square metres in 2026, 254 mined areas measuring 14,478,325 square metres in 2027, 198 mined areas measuring 12,757,808 square metres in 2028, 149 mined areas measuring 12,302,067 square metres in 2029, and 54 mined areas measuring 4, 937,473 mined areas in 2030. The request further indicates that Angola intends to address 90 roads in 2026, 17 roads in 2027, and 4 roads in 2028.
17. The Committee wrote to Angola to request additional information on Angola's reduced annual milestones compared to its previous extension request (approx. 20.17 million square metres). Angola indicated in its response that earlier results were largely due to NTS-based cancellations, which have since declined, with current land release relying more on technical survey and clearance. Angola also indicated in its response that, based on recent capacity and performance, Angola expects to release an average of 10 million square metres annually. The Committee emphasised the importance of Angola reporting on annual progress in accordance with IMAS and on adjusted milestones, including details on the number and size of areas to be addressed.
18. The request indicates the national and international capacities for implementing the work plan. The Committee wrote to Angola to request additional information on the role of public operators as well as on the required operation capacity to address the remaining challenge. Angola indicate in its response that public operators are receiving financial support and acquiring equipment to address assigned mined areas with current operational capacity as follows: the National Demining Centre has 17 demining brigades and 17 NTS teams; the Armed Forces have 22 brigades and eight NTS teams. Angola also indicated in its response that the capacity of NGOs varies with funding, with current operation capacity as follows: APACOMINAS (10 demining and two NTS teams), NPA (four demining and one NTS teams), APOPO (four demining and one NTS teams), MAG (12 demining and four NTS teams), and HALO Trust (62 demining and nine NTS teams).
19. The request indicates that Angola has developed a work plan for EORE in line with the decisions of States Parties that includes consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, as well as climate and the environment. The request indicates that the work plan includes regular coordination meetings, adaption of EORE materials and the mobilisation of resources.
20. The Committee wrote to Angola to request information on efforts to use media —especially in local languages—to reach remote communities, as well as the number and composition of EORE teams, their deployment locations, and any relevant equipment or logistical requirements. Angola indicated in its response that efforts have been made to disseminate EORE messages including through churches, schools, markets and public transport stops as well as television and radio programs broadcasted in Portuguese and local languages at provincial level. Angola further indicated in its response that the NMAA, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, has ensured the inclusion of EORE messages in primary education school curriculums. Angola further indicated that EORE is carried out by all demining operators in areas adjacent to land release operations, with the exception of the CND which has teams covering 16 provinces of the country. Angola further indicated in its response that NGO teams include the following: Mines Advisory Group (MAG) (three teams in the provinces of Moxico, Moxico Leste, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) (one team in the provinces of Bengo, Uíge and Cuanza Norte), The HALO Trust (two teams operating in the provinces of Bié, Cuando and Cubango), APOPO (one team operating in the province of Cuanza Sul) and APACOMinas (one team in the province of Cuanza Sul).
21. The Committee wrote to Angola to request information on how risky behaviours like scrap metal collection are being addressed to prevent accidents. Angola indicated in its response that increased scrap metal searches have led to more accidents, primarily with EO other than anti-personnel

mines, prompting the CND to adapt its approach by conducting targeted awareness campaigns at scrap metal sale locations.

22. The request indicates that during the extension period Angola will establish a residual risk strategy. The Committee wrote to Angola to request information on the timeline for the development and approval of the strategy and how it will be operationalised as provinces are declared free of known mined areas. Angola indicated in its response that the strategy is scheduled to be approved by September 2025, after which the following activities will be implemented, i) adoption of the strategy; ii) drafting of the residual management standard; iii) development of residual contamination information management processes; iv) training on residual management operational capacity; and v) implementation of residual contamination management. The Committee noted the importance of Angola providing updated information on its efforts and progress made to ensure the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.
23. The Committee wrote to Angola to request information on its efforts to integrate mine action into Angola's national development plan. Angola indicated in its response that mine action activities are integral to Angola's National Development Plan 2023-2027 and in particular objectives 47.1 and 47.2 which call for Angola to "Maintain the effectiveness of Mine Action and Increase levels of awareness among the population about the risks of explosive ordnance". Angola also indicated in its response that all measures contained in its request will be aligned with the new National Mine Action Strategy 2026-2030. The Committee noted that Angola's efforts to align mine action activities with Angola's national development plan would contribute to improving human safety and socio-economic conditions in Angola.
24. The Committee wrote to Angola to request additional information on how the environmental impact of clearance operations will be addressed during the extension period including through the adoption of a NMAA aligned with IMAS 07.13 on environmental management. Angola indicated in its response that the NMAA ensures that operations are carried out in accordance with Angolan environmental laws as well as IMAS and that the NMAA advocated for operators to apply environmentally friendly methods in the course of their activities. Angola also indicated in its response that meetings with relevant ministries and operators will be held within the framework of the National Mine Action Strategy 2026-2030 to develop a NMAA in line with IMAS 07.13, as well as standard operating procedures for the mine action sector. The Committee noted the importance of Angola providing information on its efforts to integrate climate and environmental considerations in its implementation efforts.
25. The Committee wrote to Angola to request information on how ANAM is currently implementing its gender equality and diversity policy, including how gender and diversity will be addressed in Angola's National Strategic Mine Action Plan. Angola indicated in its response that it has clear policies on gender and diversity, including Articles in its Constitution which provide for the equality and protection of all its citizens. Angola also indicated in its response that Angola's mine action programme continues to recognise that women, girls, boys and men are affected differently by contamination due to their roles and responsibilities and have specific and varying needs and priorities. The Committee noted the importance of Angola continuing to provide information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.
26. The request indicates that Angola will require a total of US \$176,913,701.60 to complete implementation of Article 5. The Committee wrote to Angola to request additional information on national and international resources that have been secured. Angola indicated in its response that,

while national resources are allocated in tranches and in non-uniform amounts, US \$240 million have been approved by the government for the next four years (2025-2028) for operational and administrative expenses which depends on the national treasury reserves. Angola further responded that in 2025 a total of US \$80 million was allotted for equipment, training, and current expenses of public operators and ANAM and that the government agreed to finance all operators in Angola (public operators, national and international NGOs, and some private), without distinction, with approximately 70 million having been allotted to national and international NGOs including APACOMinas (US \$13,480,643.22); NPA (US \$3,000,000.00); APOPO (US \$2,049,535.00); The HALO Trust (US \$30,000,000.00) and MAG (US \$14,995,231.00). The Committee welcomes Angola's strong national commitment to its mine action programme and acknowledges that, despite this dedication, continued international cooperation and assistance remain essential to fully address its remaining obligations under Article 5.

27. The Committee wrote to Angola to request information on the costs associated with; a) Personnel; b) equipment and machinery operations; c) logistics and field support; d) monitoring and evaluation; and e) overheads and administrative expenses. Angola indicated in its response that, in the case of ANAM and public operators, funding covers both operational and administrative expenses including all items mentioned above. Angola also indicated in its response that in the case of NGOs, expenses for the items mentioned above are calculated on the basis of a maximum average of US \$3.10 /square metres which was agreed to by all stakeholder together with the NMAA.
28. The Committee wrote to Angola to request additional information on Angola's resource mobilisation strategy for the extension period. Angola indicated in its response that it does not have a singly strategy and that public institutions like ANAM and public operators are funded through the State Budget, while some operators and NGOs receive international donations and follow varied strategies. Angola further indicated in its response that resource mobilisation is aligned with Angola's strategic goals within its National Development Plan 2023–2027 and that the Angolan government remains the largest donor to the mine action programme.
29. The Committee wrote to Angola to request clarity regarding the annual budget allocated for EORE activities during the extension period. Angola indicated in its response that EORE activities are funded through State budget allocations and international donations, with approximately US \$150,000 required for EORE activities during the extension period. The Committee noted the importance of Angola providing information regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on how priorities were established, methodologies used, challenges faced, and results achieved and include information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities.
30. The request includes other relevant information that may be of use to the States Parties in assessing and considering the request, including information on donors and funding received, potential future donors and current demining capacity in the country, risks and assumptions concerning implementation as well as annexed tables relating to land addressed during the initial extension period.
31. In recalling that the request is dependent on national allocations from the State budget, and continued survey of mined areas, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Angola providing by 30 April 2028 an updated detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for the remaining extension period, containing information on progress made, the result of survey efforts, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with the IMAS and disaggregated by the type of explosive ordnance, annual projections

of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining extension period and by which organisation, matched to a detailed budget. The Committee further indicated the importance of the updated work plan containing detailed, cost, and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.

32. The Committee noted that the plan is ambitious, and the success is contingent upon increased State and international funding, maintenance of operational capacities, the outputs of pending survey operations, and retaining strong partnerships with international stakeholders. In this regard, the Committee noted that the States Parties would benefit from Angola reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Angola's work plan with progress in survey and clearance presented in a manner consistent with IMAS and 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 information on the type of explosive ordnance located and destroyed;
- b. impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Angola'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 disaggregating by 'suspect hazardous areas,' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size including by disaggregating between the type of contamination to ensure increased clarity on the remaining challenges;
- d. implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the how priorities were established, methodologies used, challenges faced, and results achieved and include information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities;
- e. efforts to ensure that NMAS are continuously reviewed to ensure their alignment with the latest IMAS;
- f. information on humanitarian, social and economic, and environmental implications, in particular in conservation areas, of contamination, and data on casualties disaggregated by gender and age;
- 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. efforts to align mine action strategy with Angola's national development plan;
- i. progress in establishing its residual risk strategy to ensure the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, discovered following completion;
- j. resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Angola to support implementation efforts;

- k. efforts to strengthen national level coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders, including donors, on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance including through the establishment of a National Mine Action Platform.

33. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Angola 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.