

Decisions on the request submitted by Angola for an extended 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 Angola for an extended 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 2030.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Angola had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, to complete implementation by its deadline, as recorded in the decision of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, Angola has made commendable progress, including in acquiring more clarity on its remaining contamination and in strengthening its national capacity, and has committed to carry out efforts to continue garnering an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Angola was projecting that it would need an additional five years to finalize the release of the remaining mine areas. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as the implementation of Angola's Article 5 obligations will be affected by the level of resources obtained, including allocations from the State budget and the results of ongoing survey efforts, the Convention would benefit from Angola submitting to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, by 30 April 2028, an updated work plan for the remaining extension period.
4. The Meeting noted that the work plans should contain 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 International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by the type of contamination, annual projections of the areas and the total area which would be dealt with during the remaining extension period and by which organisation, matched to a detailed budget. The Meeting also emphasized the importance of the plan containing a detailed, costed, and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.
5. The Meeting also noted the importance of Angola's efforts to ensure that a sustainable capacity is in place to address previously unknown mined areas that may be discovered following Angola declaring completion of its commitments under Article 5. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the updated detailed work plan would also benefit from including information in progress in establishing and operationalizing this sustainable national capacity.
6. The Meeting noted that, given the casualties and socioeconomic impact highlighted by Angola in its request, progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Angola. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Angola ensuring that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with 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.
7. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Angola is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Meeting also noted that the plan is based on allocations from State budgets and contingent upon stable international funding. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the

Convention 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 contamination 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; and
- 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, where possible.

8. The Meeting 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.

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