

REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submitted by Angola

1. This document refers to the Third Extension Request for compliance with Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention from the Republic of Angola as a State Party for a period of five years, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030.
2. The Republic of Angola signed the Convention on 4 December 1997 and ratified it on 5 July 2002. The Convention entered into force for Angola on 1 January 2003. In accordance with Article 5, the Republic of Angola undertook to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2012 (ten years after entry into force). On 30 March 2012, the Republic of Angola submitted the first request for an extension of its deadline for compliance with Article 5 for a period of 5 years (2013 to 2017).
3. As Angola faced circumstances that prevented it from completing implementation of its Article 5 obligations, the Republic of Angola submitted a second extension request for a period of eight years until 31 December 2025, which was granted by the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties. Unfortunately, due to several reasons, including the magnitude of the remaining challenge, the Republic of Angola submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a third extension request.
4. As with the previous request, this document summarises the main activities carried out and the challenges faced during the previous extension period and from a normative and programmatic perspective, presents the key actions defined by the Government of Angola and its partners for the realisation of this request.
5. It should be recalled that when the previous request was submitted, there were 1,465 known and registered areas in Angola's National Database, corresponding to a total of 221,409,679 square metres. As part of fulfilling its obligations as a State Party, the Angolan government, through the National Mine Action Authority, operators and partners, carried out a number of land release activities which made it possible to define more precisely the problem of contamination and to plan demining and battlefield clearance operations more efficiently.
6. It is worth noting that the redefinition of areas previously overestimated by the Survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of Mines in Communities (LIS), through non-technical survey conducted in 2018/2019, resulted in a reduction of 15,634,964 square metres and, consequently, in the reconciliation of the National Database.
7. During the current extension period, Angola addressed a total of 950 mined areas covering a total area of 147,869,036 square metres (70,056,526 square metres were cancelled, 14,404,107 square metres were reduced and 63,408,403 square metres were cleared), resulting in the destruction of 12,367 anti-personnel mines, 2,363 anti-tank mines and 11,060 explosive ordnance (EE).
8. Among the key achievements are the following: (i) Angolan government funding for the demining operations of the Okavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area Project

(KAZA), carried out by the international operator The HALO Trust in the amount of US \$ 60 million for the demining of 153 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 15,831,561 square metres in the then Cuando Cubango province, (ii) Demining for the rehabilitation and construction of primary, secondary and tertiary roads, (iii) Expansion and access to land for agriculture and pastoralism, and (iv) Demining of power transmission lines and areas for the construction of housing, hospitals, schools and other public infrastructures. Public operators and national and international non-governmental organisations were involved in this undertaking.

9. These actors also participated in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education activities, with the aim of maintaining the safety and protection of civilians, thereby contributing to the reduction of accidents involving explosive ordnance. As part of the regulatory framework and in order to support the effective and efficient implementation of the above activities, 13 National Mine Action Standards on land release were developed and updated under the coordination and supervision of the National Agency for Mine Action *Agência Nacional De Acção Contra Minas* (ANAM).
10. Mindful of its responsibilities, the Angolan government has always been committed to seeking solutions with partners and mobilising resources at national and international levels to finance activities aimed at reducing the negative impact of mines on communities. Unfortunately, during this period, landmines and other explosive ordnance continued to claim victims all over the country, including 421 new victims, of which 151 were killed and 270 injured, as shown in Table 5 annexed to the request.
11. The current remaining contamination shows that there are 965 mined areas, representing an area of 57,068,936 square metres, mostly in the provinces of Bié, Cuando, Cubango, Moxico and Moxico Leste. Furthermore, it should be noted that there are 9 provinces with reduced contamination, 6 of which, Huambo, Zaire, Namibe, Kwanza Norte, Uíge and Malanje, are already at the stage of declaring themselves free of known mined areas. Angola aims to urgently address the remaining contamination which negatively affects communities and reconstruction and development projects. Accordingly, a Work Plan has been put into place which consists of clearing all the areas listed in the National Mine Action Database, as well as possible new areas discovered and maintaining the safety and protection of the population, in accordance with the National Development Plan 2023-2027, the National Mine Action Strategy and the Siem Reap - Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029.
12. To address this contamination, the provinces of Benguela, Cuanza Norte, Huambo, Icolo and Bengo, Luanda, Malanje, Namibe, Uíge and Zaire, with 34 mined areas measuring 2,235,034 square metres, will be prioritised for intervention so that they are gradually declared free of known mined areas.
13. For the 79 suspected hazardous areas that are located in the provinces of Bengo, Cunene, Lunda Sul, Lunda Norte, Moxico and Namibe, measuring an estimated 2,191,193 square metres, will be surveyed to confirm or cancel these areas, followed by immediate technical action and/or demining. The remaining 12 provinces, with 931 areas and an area of 56,820,659 square metres, will be declared free at a later stage.
14. The activities of the Mine Action sector are part of the Angolan government's broader national frameworks, in particular Angola's 2023-2027 National Development Plan, as follows: *"Maintain the effectiveness of mine action and increase the population's awareness of the risks of explosive ordnance"* (programme 47, page 186, objectives 47.1 and 47.2).

15. The National Authority, in collaboration with the line Ministerial Departments and operators, has scheduled meetings as part of the National Mine Action Strategy (2026-2030) to develop a National Mine Action Standard (NMAS) in line with the International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13 on environmental management, as well as specific environmental operational standards for the Mine Action sector.
16. All activities included in this request will be aligned with the new National Mine Action Strategy 2026-2030, as shown in its Strategic Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 5. The implementation of the Work Plan will include public operators, namely the demining brigades of the Angolan Armed Forces and the National Demining Centre, a national non-governmental organisation (NGO) (APACOMinas), four international NGOs (Norwegian People's Aid, APOPO, The HALO Trust and Mines Advisory Group) in the following activities: a) Clearance of the 965 remaining areas, b) Technical survey and subsequent clearance of 79 suspected contaminated areas, c) Promoting Explosive Ordnance Risk Education activities, d) Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the cleared areas, e) Promoting best quality management practices, f) Promoting best environmental protection practices, g) Progressive declarations of provinces free of known mined areas, and h) Gradual implementation of the residual risk strategy.
17. The budget for activities to be carried out during the period of this request is US \$176,913,701,60. The Angolan government will play a leading role in financing the implementation of the activities listed above, committing itself to allocating sufficient resources, will also count on the support of traditional donors and will be increasingly committed to mobilizing the necessary funds to fully comply with the obligations under Article 5, i.e. the total elimination of remaining contamination.