

Decisions on the request submitted by Burkina Faso 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 Burkina Faso 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 31 December 2028.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that it is unfortunate and concerning that Burkina Faso, having in its initial transparency report indicated that there were no mined areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced, has discovered newly mined areas under its jurisdiction or control. In this regard the Meeting welcomed Burkina Faso's adherence with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties on how to address such situations, particularly by reporting these newly mined areas and submitting a request for an extended deadline.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed Burkina Faso addressing contamination by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (improvised explosive devices (IEDs) which meet the definition of an anti-personnel mine) and its efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed Burkina Faso requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Burkina Faso's efforts to acquire a better understanding of the contamination as well as to continue its efforts to continue strengthening its national capacity to address the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel mines.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Burkina Faso ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied by all those involved for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention, including in ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed hazardous areas.
6. The Meeting further noted the importance of Burkina Faso ensuring that a sustainable national capacity is in place to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme including survey, clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance. The Meeting also noted the importance of Burkina Faso continuing its 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.
7. The Meeting noted that given the casualties and socioeconomic impact highlighted by Burkina Faso in its request noted that progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Burkina Faso. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Burkina Faso ensuring that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, as well as mine risk education and reduction efforts, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.

8. Also, in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Burkina Faso, is ambitious and contingent upon national and international support, the security situation, institutional stability and capacity building. The Meeting further noted that the plan is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Burkina Faso reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Burkina Faso's work plan, including the initial analysis of contamination, progress in the development of an information management system, the establishment of coordination mechanisms between existing national entities, the development of a National Mine Action Standard (NMAS) on the environment and information collection and disaggregation efforts;
 - b. progress made 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 spot clearance tasks and on the type of contamination located and destroyed;
 - c. update on how additional clarity obtained through the initial contamination analysis and survey may change Burkina Faso's assessment of its implementation challenge and efforts to address mined areas in accessible areas, including adjusted milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
 - d. the remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, 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;
 - e. implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on how priorities were established, methodologies used, challenges faced, and results achieved disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities;
 - f. the development of new NMAS and efforts made to keep existing NMAS aligned with IMAS;
 - 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. resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Burkina Faso to support implementation efforts;
 - i. changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.
9. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Burkina Faso 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, and Meetings of the States Parties, as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

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