

Decisions on the request submitted by Colombia 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 Colombia 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 Colombia has made significant progress in implementing its commitments, as recorded in the decision of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, primarily to carry out survey and clearance operations and acquire a better understanding of its remaining contamination and submit a renewed request by 31 March 2025.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Colombia does not expect to be in a position to declare completion of its obligations under Article 5 by 31 December 2030, in particular due to the continued use of anti-personnel mines by illegal armed groups and limited access due to security, but aims to make significant advances toward completion during the extension period.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Colombia provided implementation milestones for the period of 2025-2027 and indicated its intention to review its work plan in 2027. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia submitting to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, by 30 April 2028, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting emphasised that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, progress in implementation of new methodologies, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting further noted the importance of the updated work plan containing detailed, costed, and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, given the casualties and socioeconomic impact highlighted by Colombia in its request, progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Colombia. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Colombia 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 Colombia seeking improved land release techniques which could lead to Colombia fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Colombia 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. Also, in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Colombia 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 ambitious and that its success is contingent upon stable funding, access to affected areas, retaining strong partnerships with international stakeholders and other matters creating an environment conducive for

implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia reporting annually, by 30 April, through its Article 7 report, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Colombia'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 evidence and clarity obtained may change Colombia's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation, in particular during 2028-2030, 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 'suspected 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. progress in the design and implementation of its **Rapid Response for Risk Reduction** activities and lessons learned from its application;
- 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 information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities.
- f. efforts to ensure that NMAS are continuously reviewed to ensure alignment with the IMAS;
- g. the humanitarian, socioeconomic, and environmental implications of contamination, including information on casualties disaggregated by gender and age;
- h. 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;
- i. progress in establishing its strategy for analysis of residual risk to ensure the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, discovered following completion;
- j. changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- k. resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Colombia to support implementation efforts; and
- l. 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 Colombia 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, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.