

Decisions on the request submitted by Ecuador 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 Ecuador 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 2027.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Ecuador 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 decisions of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, Ecuador has made commendable progress 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 recalling that the request is dependent on procurement of materials and personal protective equipment, and national and international funding, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ecuador submitting to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, by the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties, an updated 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 International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by the type of contamination, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining requested extension period and by which organisation, matched to a detailed budget. The Meeting further noted the importance of the updated work plan containing detailed, costed, plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Ecuador's efforts to ensure that a sustainable capacity is in place in the case that previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, are discovered following Ecuador 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 on progress in establishing and operationalizing this sustainable national capacity.
5. The Meeting noted that, given the socioeconomic impact highlighted by Ecuador, progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Ecuador. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Ecuador 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.
6. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Ecuador 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 contingent upon the findings of survey efforts, international support, and challenges posed by the meteorological and geographical location of the remaining mined areas. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ecuador reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Ecuador's work plan, including efforts to carry out external quality control, 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 Ecuador'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, ensuring disaggregation by SHAs, and CHAs and their relative size including by disaggregating between the type of contamination;
 - d. 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 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 IMAS;
 - f. the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of contamination, including information on casualties disaggregated by gender and age;
 - g. efforts to ensure consideration for the diverse 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 establish its national sustainable capacities to address any previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, discovered following completion, including progress in establishing national rapid response teams to identify and neutralize newly discovered or reclassified hazardous areas; and
 - i. resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Ecuador to support implementation efforts.
7. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Ecuador 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.