

Decisions on the request submitted by Ethiopia 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 Ethiopia 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 2030.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Ethiopia 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 Fourth Review Conference, Ethiopia has made commendable progress, including in the strengthening of its national capacity, including through its partnerships with international partners. The Meeting noted that Ethiopia has committed to carry out efforts to continue garnering an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge and make progress towards the fulfilment of its obligations during the extension period.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ethiopia 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 Ethiopia 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.
4. In recalling that the implementation of Ethiopia's national demining plan may be affected by outcomes of diplomatic engagements regarding plans to address anti-personnel contamination in border areas, a high level of cooperation and partnership required from international organisations and mine clearance operators, and the outcome of survey activities to be conducted in the period 2026-2027, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ethiopia submitting to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, by 30 April 2028, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Meeting noted 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, while Ethiopia indicated that access and operations in affected border areas are currently constrained by security and political factors beyond the control of the Ethiopian Mine Action Office, Ethiopia remains committed to clearing all mine areas under its jurisdiction or control. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Ethiopia reporting progress made in diplomatic engagement to reach a political agreement with Eritrea and Somalia regarding plans to address anti-personnel contamination in border areas.
6. The Meeting noted that given the casualties and socioeconomic impact highlighted by Ethiopia in its request noted that progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Ethiopia. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Ethiopia 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.

7. Also, in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Ethiopia 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 based on significant co-contributions from the international community and increased cooperation and partnership from international mine action organisations. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ethiopia reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Ethiopia'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 Ethiopia'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 to ensure increased clarity on the remaining challenges;
 - 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 disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities;
 - e. changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation of survey and clearance of mined areas as well as progress made by Ethiopia in seeking diplomatic engagement and political agreement to obtain access for deployment of a survey team and ensure safety for demining teams;
 - f. efforts to ensure that NMAS are continuously reviewed to ensure alignment with IMAS;
 - g. efforts to integrate the implementation of Article 5 obligations into broader national development plans, strategies, and budgets;
 - h. efforts to strengthen Ethiopia's mine national capacity, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion;
 - i. resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Ethiopia to support implementation efforts;
 - j. 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;

- k. efforts to ensure that the full range of practical methods used to release land, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems, are employed;
 - l. the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of contamination, including information on casualties disaggregated by gender and age; and
 - m. 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.
8. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Ethiopia 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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