

Observations on the request submitted by the Senegal under Article 5 of the Convention

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Algeria, Norway, Thailand (Chair), United Kingdom)

26 November 2025

1. At the 2006 Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP), the States Parties established “a process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extensions to Article 5 deadlines.” This process includes States Parties seeking extensions being encouraged “to submit their requests to the President no fewer than nine months before the Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference at which the decision on the request would need to be taken.” The agreed process also sees that the President and the Co-Chairs and the Co-Rapporteurs¹ are tasked with preparing an analysis of each request and that the President² is responsible for submitting each analysis “to the States Parties well before the Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference preceding the requesting State’s deadline.”
2. In a report submitted to the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) entitled *Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process*³ submitted by the President of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties the States Parties indicated that “the process has led to the establishment of an orderly and predictable calendar for submitting, analysing and considering requests for extensions of Article 5 deadlines. It is implied that a State Party that believes it will be unable to complete implementation by its deadline should submit its request in advance of the last Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference prior to its deadline. Given the timing of Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, requests should normally be submitted by 31 March of each year. Nevertheless, on various occasions, late requests have been submitted. This has impeded the efforts of the analysing group by limiting opportunities for interaction between the group and requesting States Parties. This has also resulted in some analyses being completed much later than they normally should have thus affecting the ability of all States Parties to take informed decisions on requests.”
3. To date, 42 States Parties have generally acted in a manner consistent with the process agreed to by the States Parties at the 7MSP. Many of these States Parties spent several months preparing requests and subsequently engaged in cooperative dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (the Committee). In addition, “some requesting States Parties”, as noted by the report submitted to the 12MSP, have “seized on the opportunity presented through an extension request to reinvigorate interest in a national demining plan, in large part by demonstrating national ownership and that implementation is possible in a relatively short period of time.”
4. Senegal ratified the Convention on 24 September 1998 and the Convention entered into force for Senegal on 1 March 1999. In its initial transparency report Senegal indicated that there were areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. Senegal was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control by 1 March 2009.
5. Since this time, Senegal has submitted requests for extension to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, and the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP). On each occasion, the Meetings of the States Parties agreed unanimously to grant Senegal’s

¹ This mandate of the Analysing Group was entrusted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation by the Third Review Conference.

² Ibid.

³ APLC/MSP.12/2012/4, *Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process*

request for extension. The request for extension granted to Senegal by the 18MSP was for a period of five years, until 1 March 2026.

6. In accordance with the process agreed to at the 7MSP, if Senegal believed it would be unable to comply with Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention within its extended deadline, it should have submitted a request for extension by 31 March 2025 for consideration by the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties (22MSP).
7. On 23 January 2025, the Committee wrote to Senegal to provide an overview of the Article 5 extension request process and to remind Senegal of the importance of adhering to the process, as established by the 7MSP, by submitting its request for extension by the 31 March 2025 deadline in order to ensure that the Committee was able to implement its mandate to *“prepare and submit to the States Parties in advance of Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences an analysis of each request for an Article 5 extended deadline, taking into account as relevant, the decisions on the analysis process as agreed to by the Seventh and the Twelfth Meetings of the States Parties.”*
8. As of the 17-20 June 2025 intersessional meetings, Senegal had not submitted its request for extension. During the meeting the Committee, met with representatives of Senegal in order to recall the importance of Senegal submitting an extension request as soon as possible in order for the Committee to implement its mandate and ensure consideration of the request by the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee encouraged Senegal once again to take advantage of the technical support offered by the Convention’s Implementation Support Unit.
9. On 11 August 2025, the Committee wrote to the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations in Geneva to enquire about the status of Senegal’s request and recall the importance of Senegal submitting an extension request as soon as possible. The Committee further recalled the decisions of the 12MSP regarding the difficulties faced by the analysis process due to late requests.
10. On 3 November 2025, Senegal submitted an extension request to the Committee. The Committee acknowledge receipt of the request and noted that the late submission of the request made it impossible for an analysis to be prepared.

Observations

11. Having recognized the administrative challenges faced by Senegal, the Committee acknowledged the request submitted by Senegal with delay and welcomed the efforts of Senegal to sustain the cooperative dialogue with the Committee.
12. However, with Senegal’s recent submission, the Committee is not in a position to fulfil its mandate to prepare and submit to the States Parties in advance of the Twenty-Second Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences (1-5 December 2025) an analysis of the request for an Article 5 extended deadline in accordance to the decisions on the analysis process as agreed to by the Seventh and the Twelfth Meetings of the States Parties.
13. In this context, the Committee noted that the States Parties and the Convention as a whole would benefit from the full extension request process taking place by granting Senegal a one-year extension of its deadline until 1 March 2027. This would allow Senegal to resubmit the request with any necessary updates by 31 March 2026 for the Committee’s further consideration, , in accordance with the established process, by 31 March 2026, for consideration by the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties. Doing so would allow Senegal and the States Parties to benefit from the cooperative dialogue envisaged by the extension request process.