

Analysis of the request submitted by South Sudan for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

1. South Sudan deposited its notification of succession to the Convention on 11 November 2011. The Convention entered into force for South Sudan on 9 July 2011. In its initial transparency report submitted on 3 December 2012, South Sudan reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. South Sudan was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 9 July 2021. Since this time, South Sudan, submitted a request for extension to the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP). The request for extension granted to South Sudan by the 18MSP was for five-years, until 9 July 2026.
2. In granting the request, the 18MSP noted that, even with a consistent and sizeable effort having been undertaken by South Sudan going back even before entry into force of the Convention, South Sudan faces a significant remaining contamination challenge in order to fulfil its obligations under Article 5. The 18MSP also noted the importance of South Sudan addressing information management challenges and ensuring that they maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation.
3. South Sudan, believing that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by its deadline, submitted on 3 June 2025 to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation ("the Committee") a request for extension of its 9 July 2026 deadline. On 27 June 2025, the Committee wrote to South Sudan to request additional information and clarity on the content of its request for extension. South Sudan provided a response on 12 August 2025, and, on the same date, submitted a revised request for extension incorporating additional information provided in response to the Committee's questions. South Sudan's request is for a period of four years, until 9 July 2030.
4. The Committee noted that South Sudan had submitted its request later than the established 31 March 2025 deadline for States Parties submitting requests in 2025 and therefore had not adhered to the extension request process established by the States Parties in 2007. The Committee, however, noted with satisfaction that South Sudan has submitted its request and has engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee, including by meeting with the Committee to discuss the situation in South Sudan.
5. The request indicates that since July 2021 South Sudan addressed 21 mined areas measuring 3,783,602 square metres, with 595 anti-personnel mines identified and destroyed. The request also indicates that South Sudan addressed 17 anti-tank minefields, 17 mined roads, 97 battlefields and 87 cluster munition strikes, with a total 31.4 square kilometres of confirmed or suspected hazardous areas released. The Committee noted discrepancies on reporting of South Sudan's progress during the previous reporting period. In this regard, the Committee noted that on two occasions efforts to upgrade the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) software package led to critical data loss, and that these losses inhibited efforts to present an entirely accurate record of the history of mine action in South Sudan.
6. The Committee wrote to South Sudan to request clarity on the disaggregation of contamination data to distinguish anti-personnel mines from other types of explosive ordnance (EO)

contamination. South Sudan responded that efforts will be made to provide clearer disaggregation in annual reporting and future planning. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan reporting on progress in implementation, disaggregating anti-personnel mines from other contamination types to ensure clarity on the threat addressed. The Committee also noted the importance of South Sudan reporting progress in a manner consistent with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), disaggregating by area cancelled through non-technical survey (NTS), reduced through technical survey (TS) and addressed through clearance.

7. The Committee welcomed the information provided by South Sudan and noted that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and other explosive remnants of war also pose extreme risks to the civilian population and to development activities. The Committee noted that South Sudan's efforts to implement Article 5 is only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in South Sudan.
8. The request indicates that 80% of payams (the third administrative unit) have no known mined areas remaining and highlights the urgent need to build a sustainable national capacity in South Sudan. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan reporting progress in establishing and strengthening its sustainable national capacity which is able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme, including survey, clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance, and to undertake post completion activities, including in the event that previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, are discovered.
9. The request indicates that during the extension period, national implementation measures were strengthened with the approval of the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) Act on 7 July 2023, which will enable a more cohesive approach to mine action in the country. The request further indicates that South Sudan developed a national mine action strategy for the period of 2023-2028 and that mine action activities are integral to South Sudan's National Development Plan 2021-2024. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan continuing to report on efforts to demonstrate a high level of national ownership, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, strategies and budgets.
10. The request indicates that anti-personnel mines continue to have a humanitarian and socio-economic impact on the population of South Sudan, with mined areas contaminating or denying access to land that would otherwise be used productively. The request indicates that the presence of anti-personnel mines in South Sudan has been shown to limit agriculture grazing of cattle and the use of natural resources. Anti-personnel mines have also been shown to affect displaced populations and are the leading cause of accidents to highly mobile populations. The request further indicates that men and boys constitute the majority of total casualties, and women are over-represented in fatal household-work accidents. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan continuing to provide data on casualties in a manner disaggregated by gender and age and noted that progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in South Sudan.
11. The request indicates the following factors, which in South Sudan's view, acted as impeding circumstances during South Sudan's second Article 5 deadline; a) security related access restrictions, b) poor state of infrastructure and seasonal rains, c) severe flooding, d) population displacement, and e) decreased funding support for mine action.
12. The request indicates that during the extension period, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) remained a cornerstone of the mine action programme, with direct delivery of risk education delivered to 3.69 million people. The request indicates that EORE teams are gender balanced and

capable of reaching out to all demographics in the community in order to understand their concerns and priorities. The request also provides information on the beneficiaries of EORE activities disaggregated by gender and age.

13. The request indicates that the remaining challenge totals 114 mined areas measuring 4,943,561 square metres, including 71 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 2,662,879 square metres and 43 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 2,280,682 square metres. The request indicates that the remaining challenge for all explosive ordnance totals 191 hazardous areas measuring 11,192,981 square metres, including 123 CHAs measuring 6,351,275 square metres and 68 SHAs measuring 4,841,709 square metres. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan continuing to report information on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by SHA and CHA and their relative size. The Committee further noted the importance of South Sudan disaggregating its remaining challenges by the type of contamination
14. As noted, South Sudan's request is for 4 years, until 9 July 2030. The request includes a rationale for the requested period based on the fact that South Sudan now has an accurate assessment of the extent of its contamination and a clear understanding of the clearance requirement to achieve completion.
15. The work plan contains manual clearance, mechanical clearance and resurvey milestones for the extension period. The request provides projections for addressing all explosive ordnance in South Sudan including 78 areas measuring 3,852,074 square metres to be addressed by manual clearance, and 68 areas measuring 3,678,334 square metres to be addressed by mechanical clearance, and re-survey of 58 hazardous areas measuring 3,662,486 square metres. The Committee noted a discrepancy between the total number of anti-personnel mined areas reported for re-survey (45) on page 75, and the total number of areas reported for resurvey (58) on page 77.
16. The request contains the following annual milestones to address mined areas through manual clearance during the extension period including 4 mined areas measuring 132,000 square metres in 2025, 19 mined areas measuring 660,000 square metres during the period of 2026-2028, 15 mined areas measuring 528,000 square metres in 2029, and 10 mined areas measuring 330,000 square metres in 2030. The request also contains the following annual milestones to address mined areas through mechanical clearance during the period including 1,232,000 square metres in 2025, and 924,000 square metres in 2026. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan providing updates to its national work plan based on new evidence and reporting on adjusted milestones.
17. The request indicates that the following capacities are present in South Sudan to carry out the activities as given in the work plan: 27 medium multi-tasked teams, comprised of 8-15 deminers (supported by UNMISS (21), Mines Advisory Group (5), and Danish Refugee Council (1)), 1 small multi-task team, comprised of survey/EOD team (supported by DRC), and 2 mechanical clearance and ground preparation team.
18. The request indicates that projections for re-survey activities include 16 mined areas measuring 418,721 square metres in Greater Equatoria region, and 8 mined areas measuring 1,639,272 square metres in the Upper Nile region. The request also indicates that all mined areas identified for re-survey in Greater Equatoria region and 6 of the 8 mined areas in the Upper Nile region are located in "inaccessible areas" due to ongoing conflict, poor road infrastructure, and seasonal rains. The Committee wrote to South Sudan to request information on how the timeline for implementation has taken current "inaccessible areas" into account. South Sudan indicated in its response that all mined areas currently located in "inaccessible areas" were considered in the implementation timeline, and South Sudan remains optimistic that these areas will become accessible as stability

continues to improve and road infrastructure develops. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan reporting progress on security-related access restrictions, flooding and other localised constraints that may have a potential positive or negative impact regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas.

19. The work plan contains information on the development of clearance methodologies in response to minimum metal anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, as well as methodologies that are adaptable to changing security conditions, and environmental challenges. The request further highlights the importance of ensuring that all mechanical assets present in the country are able to be deployed. The Committee encourages South Sudan to continue seeking improved land release techniques which could lead to South Sudan fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame.
20. The Committee wrote to South Sudan to request information on the impact of a shortened demining season and how this has been factored into the work plan. South Sudan indicated in its response that climatic patterns were carefully considered during the development of the work plan, emphasising that mechanical assets, which require dry conditions to operate effectively, are generally limited to deployment between December and June and that manual clearance teams are deployed for periods of up to ten months. The Committee also noted the importance of South Sudan providing information on its efforts to ensure that climate and environmental considerations inform all relevant areas of implementation to appropriately address climate and environmental risks.
21. The request indicates that mine risk education (MRE) employs a structured approach to allow coverage of high-risk communities and optimising of seasonal operational windows to ensure that MRE activities remain closely integrated with survey and clearance operations to maximize community safety. The request indicates that MRE teams are embedded with manual and mechanical clearance teams with MRE teams embedded with manual clearance teams conducting MRE sessions for 10 months of the year - two sessions per day in the dry season (October to June) and one session per day during wet seasons (July to September) - and MRE teams embedded with mechanical teams conduct MRE activities for 7 months of the year. The request also indicates that national organisations also conduct stand-alone MRE activities. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan continuing to report on the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction 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.
22. The request indicates that during the extension period the NMAA adopted a Gender Equality and Diversity policy, aligned closely with the National Mine Action Strategy to mainstream gender, diversity, and inclusion within all mine action activities. The Committee wrote to South Sudan to request information on South Sudan's plans to implement the policy. South Sudan indicated in its response that prior to the policy's launch, the NMAA and partners had initiated female deminer forums, workshops, and a female deminer network, and had promoted qualified female personnel into leadership positions within technical teams. South Sudan also responded that teams remain gender balanced to allow the programme to address the diverse needs of affected communities. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan continuing to provide Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.
23. The request indicates that South Sudan will require a total of US\$ 183.55 million for activities related to the implementation of Article 5 during the extension period, including US \$31.98 million in 2025, US \$41.76 million in 2026, US \$36.28 million in 2027, US \$ 34.33 million in 2028, US \$23.05

million in 2029, and US \$16.05 million in 2030. The request also includes a breakdown of budget required for specific activities, including survey, clearance, survey, capacity building and quality assurance. The request indicates that while the Government of South Sudan provides a national financial contribution to support to the NMAA of both its Juba headquarters and one regional office in Wau, the Government does not support operational costs of the mine action programme.

24. The request indicates that funding in 2024 totalled US \$33 million with the largest contribution (approximately 75%) provided through the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The request indicates that the United Nations' assessed budget received by UNMAS is used to primarily support the UNMISS mission and that there is no certainty that current funding levels or a mandate to support mine clearance efforts will be sustained going forward. The Committee wrote to South Sudan to request information on the impact of a reduction in UNMISS budget and encouraged South Sudan to include information on the development of a resource mobilisation strategy. South Sudan indicated in its response that bilateral engagement has taken place through a South-to-South initiative with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that aims to build technical and operational mine action capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa, with engagement including bilateral resource mobilisation, potential technical exchanges between South Sudan and other African mine action programs with the Cambodia Mine Action Centre.
25. The request indicates the urgent need to build a sustainable national capacity in South Sudan. The request indicates that the NMAA remains underfunded. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan reporting on its resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of South Sudan to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan making a regular significant national financial commitment to its implement efforts.
26. The Committee wrote to South Sudan requesting further information on its efforts to establish an in-country platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders. South Sudan indicated in its response that the NMAA, in coordination with UNMAS, has established a regular platform for dialogue among mine action stakeholders, including monthly operational coordination meetings convened with all implementing partners, with the NMAA consistently advocating for the prioritisation of the clearance of anti-personnel mines as a key national objective and strongly encourages partners to align their operational plans in support of South Sudan's obligations. South Sudan also indicated in its response that due to political instability in 2025, several donor representatives were temporary evacuated resulting in the disruption of initiatives that weakened donor engagement. The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan continuing to provide information on national coordination efforts, including efforts to establish a national mine action platform to ensure regular dialogue with all stakeholders.
27. The request also includes other relevant information that may be of use to the States Parties in assessing and considering the request, including, detailed regional operation plans, socio-economic implications of remaining contamination, information on current demining capacity, risks and assumptions concerning implementation and financial considerations.
28. In recalling that the work plan is subject to seasonal variations, continued international funding, national capacity building efforts and re-survey of mined areas currently located in inaccessible areas, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from South Sudan submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2028 for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee noted that the work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period

covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget. The Committee further indicated the importance of the updated work plan containing detailed, cost, and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.

29. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request and subsequently in responses to the Committee's questions is comprehensive, complete and clear. The Committee further noted that the plan presented by South Sudan is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect progress in implementation. The Committee also noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is based on access to the remaining contaminated areas, reconfiguration of clearance capacities, activation of mechanical clearance capacities, sustainable international funding, and the need for a significant co-contribution from the State budget to build a sustainable national capacity. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from South Sudan reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in South Sudan's work plan with progress in survey and clearance presented in a manner consistent with IMAS (i.e., 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 explosive ordnance located and destroyed;
- b. impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change South Sudan'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 by disaggregating by 'suspect hazardous areas', and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size including by disaggregating between the type of contamination (i.e., anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, other explosive ordnance) 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 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 the latest IMAS;
- f. efforts to establish and maintain a national, centrally managed information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation, including updates on efforts to prevent critical data loss, and recover historical mine action data;
- g. 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;

- h. updates on changes security-related access restrictions, flooding and other constraints and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- i. 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;
- j. efforts to strengthen the capacity of South Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion;
- k. efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, strategies and budgets including on poverty reduction; and
- l. resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of South Sudan to support implementation efforts.

30. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to South Sudan reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the 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 its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.