

**Decisions on the request submitted by South Sudan 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 South Sudan 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 9 July 2030.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while South Sudan 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 Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, South Sudan has made commendable progress and has committed to carry out efforts to continue garnering an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge, strengthen its national capacity, and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that South Sudan was projecting that it would need an additional four years to finalize the release of the remaining mine areas. The Meeting noted that, 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 Convention would benefit from South Sudan 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 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 International Mine Action Standards (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 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.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of South Sudan 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 South Sudan 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.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of South Sudan ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International IMAS, are in place and applied by all those involved for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention, including in ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed hazardous areas.
6. The Meeting, in granting the request, noted that, given the casualties and socioeconomic impact highlighted by South Sudan in its request, progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in South Sudan. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of South Sudan 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 South Sudan 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 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 Meeting 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 contamination 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 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. efforts to ensure that NMAS are continuously reviewed to ensure alignment with IMAS;
  - f. 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;
  - g. 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;
  - h. 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;

- i. updates on changes security-related access restrictions, flooding and other constraints and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
  - j. 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;
  - 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.
8. The Meeting 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 its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.