

Decisions on the request submitted by Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe 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 31 December 2030.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Zimbabwe 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 Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, Zimbabwe has made commendable progress in addressing its remaining challenge.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the implementation of Zimbabwe's national demining plan is contingent on international resources, and the capacity of implementing partners. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Zimbabwe submitting to the Committee, by 30 April 2028, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension containing an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, and a revised detailed budget. The Meeting further indicated the importance of the updated work plan containing detailed, costed, and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education in affected communities.
4. The Meeting also noted the importance of Zimbabwe's efforts to ensure that a sustainable capacity is in place in case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered following Zimbabwe 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 casualties and socioeconomic impact highlighted by Zimbabwe in its request, progress under Article 5 during the extension period could significantly enhance human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Zimbabwe. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Zimbabwe ensuring that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, as well as mine risk education and reduction efforts, in line with International Mine Action Standards (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 Zimbabwe 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 stable international funding. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Zimbabwe reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Zimbabwe'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 Zimbabwe’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 suspected 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 context-specific 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 align mine action strategy with Zimbabwe’s national development plan;
 - g. the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of contamination, including information on casualties disaggregated by gender and age;
 - h. 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;
 - i. resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Zimbabwe 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; and
 - k. efforts implementation of the demobilisation strategies, as well as existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.
7. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Zimbabwe 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.