Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

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Analysis of the request submitted by Tajikistan 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

(Algeria (Chair), Bulgaria, Burkina Faso and Norway)

Background

1. Tajikistan ratified the Convention on 12 October 1999, and the Convention entered into force for Tajikistan on 1 April 2000. In its initial transparency report submitted on 3 February 2003, Tajikistan reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Tajikistan was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 April 2010. Since this time, Tajikistan submitted requests for extension to the Second Review Conference of the States Parties in 2009, the Fourth Review Conference (4RC) in 2019, and the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties (22MSP) in 2025. On each occasion, the Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conference of the States Parties agreed unanimously to grant Tajikistan its request for extension. The request for extension granted to Tajikistan by the 22MSP was for one year, until 31 December 2026.

2. In granting Tajikistan's request, the 22MSP noted that in order to function appropriately, the extension request process requires requests to be submitted no fewer than nine months ahead of the meeting during which they would be considered in order for an analysis of the request to be prepared and for a cooperative exchange between the requesting State and the Committee to take place. The Meeting noted that the late submission of the request by Tajikistan (16 October 2025) did not permit the Committee to carry out a cooperative dialogue with Tajikistan concerning its extension request and, therefore, to implement its mandate to provide States Parties with an analysis of the request.

3. In this context, the 22MSP noted that Tajikistan and the Convention as a whole would benefit from a full extension request process taking place and agreed unanimously to grant Tajikistan a one-year deadline until 31 December 2026. In addition, the Meeting requested that Tajikistan submit a detailed request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, in accordance with the established process, by 31 March 2026, in order for Tajikistan and the States Parties to benefit from a cooperative exchange on the request.

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4. On 31 March 2026, Tajikistan submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation ("the Committee") a request for an extension of its deadline. On 26 June 2026, the Committee wrote to Tajikistan to request additional information. On 30 July 2026, Tajikistan provided a response to the questions posed by the Committee. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Tajikistan had submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee. Tajikistan's request is for six years, until 31 December 2032.

5. The request indicates that at the beginning of the extension period covered by Tajikistan's request submitted to the 4RC in 2019, the remaining challenge comprised 249 hazardous areas measuring 12,098,210 square metres, including 185 hazardous areas measuring 7,637,410 square metres on the Tajik-Afghan border, 10 hazardous areas measuring 1,210,800 square metres in the Central Region, and 54 hazardous areas measuring 3,250,000 square metres on the Tajik-Uzbek border.

Progress in implementation

6. The request indicates that during the period 2019–2025, 122 hazardous areas measuring 8,900,742 square metres were addressed, including 2,701,095 square metres cancelled, 2,934,394 square metres reduced, and 3,265,253 square metres cleared, resulting in the destruction of 20,174 anti-personnel mines (AP mines). The Committee noted the importance of Tajikistan providing information on progress made in a manner consistent with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) by disaggregating information by the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey (NTS), reduced through technical survey (TS), or cleared through clearance), including information on the type of EO located and destroyed.

7. The request indicates that, as a result of joint assessment and monitoring by Tajik Government entities, local authorities, and the implementing partner Fondation Suisse pour le Déminage (FSD), it was determined that 54 hazardous areas measuring 3,250,000 square metres were located on the Uzbek side of the border, and that final classification and any subsequent release of these areas will be possible only after the delimitation and demarcation of the border. The request also indicated that in September 2025, FSD conducted a non-technical survey (NTS) along the Tajik–Uzbek border in Ayni district.

8. The request further indicates that during the period 2019-2025, Tajikistan identified additional hazardous areas measuring 5,862,980 square metres, including 47 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 3,225,676 square metres and 2,637,304 square metres in additional area within existing hazardous areas.

9. The request indicates that during the period 2019–2025, Tajikistan received a total of USD 24,299,247 against a projected target of USD 42,000,000 (57%). The request also indicated that, due to temporary funding cuts in 2025, a 40-day suspension of all operations in August and September 2025 occurred, negatively affecting annual land release outputs. The request indicates that, due to funding challenges, Tajikistan suffered an overall reduction in capacity from 25 teams to 16 (minus 36%) during the previous extension period.

10. The request indicates that on 28 November 2020, the National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for Humanitarian Mine Action for 2021–2030 was approved by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. The request also indicates that the Tajikistan National Mine Action Standards (TNMAS), comprising 24 chapters, were approved by the Government of Tajikistan under Decree No. 162 of 1 April 2017 and are kept current through a defined mechanism, with any change to a standard triggering mandatory retraining of personnel and annual reaccreditation of operators (each operator is accredited for 12 months before the season). The request further indicates that Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) will revise the TNMAS in line with the international IMAS review cycle. The Committee noted the importance of Tajikistan ensuring its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) are up to date and in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of its remaining challenge.

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11. The request indicates that since 2017, the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (TMAP) has utilised a methodology known as "Non-Technical Survey (NTS) with Technical Intervention". This methodology uses detectors to intervene in suspected areas during the survey phase, increasing operational efficiency.

12. The request indicates that during the period 2019-2025, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities reached an estimated 228,905 people, through the use of educational materials, digital and mass media, community engagement, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Women Affairs Committee, local authorities, international partners, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), FSD and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). The request provides information on the beneficiaries of EORE activities disaggregated by gender and age.

The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension

13. The request indicates that during the previous extension period there were 16 casualties (four killed and 12 injured) and provides information disaggregated by gender and age. The request highlights the socioeconomic impact of anti-personnel mines on the estimated half a million people living in mine-affected areas, including cattle grazing, firewood gathering, hunting and harvesting, among other activities, and the negative impact on investments in the mining sector and on the construction of roads, bridges, power lines and telecommunications infrastructure. The request also indicates that approximately 41% of cleared land is used for grazing by the local population. The Committee noted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to provide data on casualties 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 Tajikistan.

Circumstances which impede the ability of the State Party to destroy all the anti-personnel mines in mined areas

14. The request indicates the following factors which, in Tajikistan's view, acted as impeding circumstances during the extension period: a) terrain constraints (i.e. high vegetation and mountainous and hard-to-reach areas); b) periodic short-term border access limitations due to the security situation along the Tajik-Afghan border; c) weather; d) natural phenomena such as floods, mudflows, fires, rockfalls and landslides; e) ferromagnetic rock content, which slows demining operations; f) booby traps on combat mines; g) deeply buried mines, at times up to 60–80 centimetre deep; and h) a shortage of funding.

Remaining Challenge

15. The request indicates a remaining challenge of 100 CHAs measuring 5,810,448 square metres, including 92 CHAs measuring 5,054,648 square metres along the Tajik-Afghan border and 8 CHAs measuring 755,800 square metres in the Central Region. The Committee noted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to report on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, by disaggregating suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and CHAs and their respective sizes, including by type of contamination, to ensure increased clarity on the remaining challenges.

The duration of the proposed extension and justification

16. As noted, Tajikistan's request is for a six-year period until 31 December 2032. The request includes a work plan containing the following objectives: a) complete the resurvey of all CHAs in the Central Region and along the Tajik-Afghan border by the end of 2027; b) conduct detailed surveys and assessments of minefields and battle areas; c) establish multitask teams to increase operational efficiency; and d) complete land release of the

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remaining CHAs by the end of 2032 based on current capacity, or by the end of 2030 if funding and capacity increase.

Implementation plan and milestones

17. The request contains a detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific and multi-year optional work plan for survey and clearance:

(a) Option 1. Current capacity: Remaining challenge released during the period 2026–2032.

(b) Option 2. Current capacity: Improvements in operational efficiency ensure that any newly identified mined areas are addressed during the period 2026–2032.

(c) Option 3. Doubling funding to expand clearance capacities: Remaining challenge released during the period 2026–2030.

18. The work plan projects that Tajikistan will resurvey 32 CHAs located in six districts, measuring 2,756,241 square metres, including 20 CHAs measuring 1,077,638 square metres in 2026 and 12 CHAs measuring 1,678,603 square metres in 2027. The work plan also includes annual milestones for the period 2026–2032, including 1,147,095 square metres in 2026, 763,893 square metres in 2027, 691,905 square metres in 2028, 865,400 square metres in 2029, 823,755 square metres in 2030, 764,400 square metres in 2031, and 754,000 square metres in 2032.

19. The request indicates that the work plan will prioritise the clearance of mined areas using a district-by-district approach based on the following criteria: a) mined areas with high socioeconomic and infrastructure impacts; b) survey activities to clarify the type and categories of contamination for CHAs contaminated with both landmines and UXO; c) adjustment of the boundaries and actual size of the CHAs; d) priority clearance of districts with less contaminated area; and e) establishment of multitask teams to increase operational efficiency and save time and resources in clearing CHAs. The request indicates that the multitask operational teams will deliver survey, clearance, explosive ordnance disposal and EORE, as well as hand over cleared areas for safe use by local populations.

20. The request indicates that the work plan projects that, while 10-20% of remaining mined areas are suitable for mechanical clearance, these assets will require funding for the purchase of spare parts and maintenance. The request also indicates that Tajikistan will conduct an active search of international donors to support the deployment of mechanical assets during the extension period.

21. The request indicates that Tajikistan plans to deploy advanced geophysical survey techniques, and use of electromagnetic induction (EMI) systems to detect non-metallic and deeply buried explosive ordnance and migrated mines. The request also indicates that hydrological and geomorphological assessments will be integrated into survey protocols. The request further indicates that Tajikistan will employ specialised techniques such as rope-access teams, drone-based aerial surveys, and lightweight, portable detection equipment. The request further indicates that Tajikistan is seeking technical assistance to develop and implement tailored methodologies, including capacity building of national staff in carrying out advanced survey and clearance techniques, as well as capacity building support for risk assessment and operational planning in rugged terrain.

22. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Tajikistan is employing the full range of methods to permit the safe return of land to the population and encouraged Tajikistan to continue seeking improved land release methodologies which could lead to Tajikistan fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Committee further noted the importance of Tajikistan reporting on efforts to seek improved land release methodologies as well as the results of these efforts.

23. The request indicates that delimitation and demarcation of the Tajik–Uzbek State border is an inter-State political process outside the mandate of the TNMAC. The request further indicates that as soon as final delimitation and demarcation is completed, Tajikistan will conduct a final assessment of hazard areas along the Tajik-Uzbek border. Tajikistan will

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continue to provide updates on cooperation along the border in Article 7 reports and to the Meetings of the States Parties.

Mine Risk Education and Risk Reduction

24. The request includes a detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific and multi-year plan for mine risk education and reduction (MRE) during the extension period, targeting 160,362 beneficiaries in 23 districts. The request indicates that the focus will be on schoolchildren and high-risk groups, such as shepherds, hunters, farmers and military personnel. The Committee welcomes Tajikistan's provision of information on how priorities are established and the methodologies used (e.g. interpersonal, mass or digital media), and welcomes Tajikistan's reporting on the results achieved, including information disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other relevant factors.

Gender and environment

25. The request indicates that gender is mainstreamed into implementation activities, including continued meetings of the Gender and Diversity Working Group (GDWG) of the TNMAC. The request indicates that Tajikistan promotes gender balance and diversity in survey and clearance teams, ensuring equal participation of women and men in operational and managerial roles, and supports inclusive community liaison activities.

26. The request indicates that Tajikistan integrates climate and environmental considerations into implementation activities, including national strategies and work plans, and that a multi-stakeholder mine action working group on climate change and the environment is in place and continues to discuss matters regarding environmental protection during demining operations, climate-related risks, and measures to minimise environmental impacts. The request indicates that these efforts include ensuring compliance with national frameworks, including the 2011 Law on Environmental Protection and the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2030). The request also indicates that during the extension period, an environmental policy for mine action will be developed and aligned with National Mine Action Standard 20 (Health, Safety and the Environment). The request further indicates that the Climate Change and Environment multi-stakeholder working group meets regularly to discuss climate-related risks and measures to minimise environmental impacts during operations. The Committee noted the importance of Tajikistan providing updates on its efforts to integrate gender, climate and environmental considerations into the implementation of Article 5 and welcomes Tajikistan's continued reporting on these efforts.

27. The request indicates that, following completion, TNMAC, in accordance with the national Humanitarian Mine Action Law, will retain specific coordination roles in reporting on and coordinating mine action activities, and that a more detailed plan for the transition to residual capacity will be provided closer to completion. The Committee noted the importance of Tajikistan providing updated information on its efforts and progress towards establishing a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.

Budget and requirements for assistance

28. The request indicates that Tajikistan will require a total of USD 27,052,968 for work plan Options 1 and 2 and USD 42 million for option 3 to complete implementation of Article 5. The request includes a comprehensive resource mobilisation plan, including strengthening the integration of mine action into national development frameworks, a donor outreach strategy targeting traditional and emerging partners, and advocacy for increased State allocations within the next planning cycle. The request indicates that stakeholders are ready to increase their capacity should funding become available and that Tajikistan will continue to seek funding support from the international donor community, as the country is very close to declaring itself "mine-free". The Committee noted the importance of Tajikistan providing updates on resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available by the

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Government of Tajikistan and external financing received to facilitate sustainable operations by international demining organisations and national capacities.

29. The request includes other relevant information that may be of use to the States Parties in assessing and considering the request, including information on donors and funding received, potential future donors and current demining capacity in the country, risks and assumptions concerning implementation as well as annexed tables relating to land addressed during the initial extension period.

Interim commitment

30. Recalling that the request is dependent on increased and sustained national and international resourcing of survey and clearance capacities and on the results of the resurvey of mined areas, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Tajikistan providing, by 30 April 2029, an updated, detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for the remaining extension period. The plan should contain information on progress made; the results of resurvey efforts; an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, using terminology consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by type of explosive ordnance; annual projections identifying which areas and how much land would be addressed during the remaining extension period and by which organisation; and a corresponding detailed budget. The Committee further indicated 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.

Annual reporting commitment

31. The Committee noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is contingent upon increased State and international funding, maintenance of operational capacities, the outputs of pending survey operations, and retaining strong partnerships with international stakeholders. In this regard, the Committee noted that the States Parties would benefit from Tajikistan reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Tajikistan'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 explosive ordnance located and destroyed;

(b) Impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Tajikistan'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) Efforts by Tajikistan to strengthen and seek improved land release methodologies including through the deployment of advanced detection equipment, updates on survey and clearance protocols and methodologies, including standards to be employed, and on its efforts to seek technical assistance to build relevant national capacities, progress in establishing multi-task teams, and the deployment of mechanical assets to improve operational efficiency;

(e) Updates on the cooperation with neighbouring countries to delimit and demarcate border mined areas;

(f) Implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on how priorities were established, methodologies used,

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challenges faced and results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities;

(g) 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;

(h) Progress in establishing its residual risk strategy to ensure the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, discovered following completion;

(i) Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received, as well as the results of efforts to increase available funding from the Government of Tajikistan 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.

32. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Tajikistan's 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 of other commitments made in the request, at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

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