

Decisions on the request submitted by Niger for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

1 December 2016

- a. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Niger for an extension of Niger's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing to grant the request for extension until 31 December 2020.
- b. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Niger had taken a number of measures to implement its obligations including through clearance and non-technical and technical survey efforts leading to the removal of suspicion of the presence of mines in five areas previously reported as suspected of containing mines. The Meeting further noted that Niger was taking a number of steps to prepare to address its remaining challenge.
- c. The Meeting noted the importance of the United Nation's International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS, in emphasising that evidence is required in order to define an area as either "suspected hazardous area" (i.e., an area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines) or "confirmed hazardous area" (i.e., an area known to contain anti-personnel mines).
- d. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as with its previous request, the present request does not contain a detailed annual work plan for clearance leading to completion with benchmarks for progress which would assist Niger and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. The Meeting further noted that monthly and annual projection could support Niger's efforts in mobilise financial and technical resources and that, as a result, Niger may find itself in a situation where it could proceed with implementation faster than the amount of time requested.
- e. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger providing by 30 April 2017 a revised work plan containing a list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and monthly and annual projections of which areas would be dealt with during the period of extension.
- f. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the success of the plan presented by Niger is contingent upon stable funding and challenges posed by the security situation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:
 - i. Progress made relative to the activities listed in its 2016-2020 work plan;
 - ii. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;

iii. Efforts made to mobilize the necessary financial and technical support necessary to implement the work plan, and;

iv. External financing and technical assistance received as well as resources made available by the Government of Niger to support implementation

g. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Niger, further to providing updates relative to these benchmarks at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conference, providing updated information on an annual basis within its Article 7 transparency report. The Meeting further noted that the Guide to Reporting adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties may support Niger in reporting on progress in implementing the plan within its request.