
**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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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5
and of the analysis of these requests**

**Analysis of the request submitted by Chile 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 President of the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties
on behalf of the States Parties mandated to analyse requests for
extensions**

1. Chile ratified the Convention on 10 September 2001. The Convention entered into force for Chile on 1 March 2002. In its initial transparency report submitted on 5 September 2002, Chile reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Chile is obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 March 2012. Chile, believing that it will be unable to do so by that date, submitted on 14 April 2011 to the President of the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties, a request for an extension of its deadline. On 11 May 2011, the President of the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) wrote to Chile to request additional information. Chile provided a response on 3 June 2011. Chile's request is for 8 years (until 1 March 2020).

2. The request indicated that a total of 199 mined areas were emplaced and registered by the Armed Forces covering a total of 23,207,281 square meters in six regions of the country: Arica Parinacota (95 mined areas covering a total of 14,477,055 square meters), Tarapaca (8 mined areas covering a total of 136,021 square meters), Antofagasta (65 mined areas covering a total of 6,203,380 square meters), Valparaiso (2 mined areas covering a total of 20,066 square meters), Metropolitana (1 mined area covering a total of 80,560 square meters) and Magallanes y Antartica Chilena (28 mined areas covering a total of 2,290,199 square meters). The request indicated that, of the 199 mined areas, 16 are "dangerous areas" defined as a mined area that was cleared before the entry into force of the Convention for Chile and which according to registries not all of the existing mined were found during past clearance operations. The request indicates that these "dangerous areas" are located in 4 regions of the country: Tarapaca (1), Antofagasta (13), Valparaiso (1) and Metropolitana (1).

3. The request indicates that due to periodic heavy rain, some mined areas, mostly in the high plateaus, have had mines displaced. The 10MSP President requested additional

information concerning the location of mined areas that have suffered from mines being displaced. Chile responded by indicating that a total of 37 mined areas which operations have been carried out have been addressed had mines displaced and a total of 69 mined areas are suspected of having mines displaced in the regions of Arica y Parinacota, Tarapaca, Antofagasta and Magallanes.

4. The request indicates that although the precise locations of all mined areas are known because they were planted by the Chilean Armed Forces, the total amount of area indicated also includes a security perimeter around the mined areas which takes into consideration the radius of a possible anti-personnel or anti-tank explosion. The 10MSP President requested additional information concerning the surface area of the security perimeter compared to the surface area of the actual minefield. Chile responded by indicating that the surface area of the security perimeter varies as it fundamentally depends on the configuration and position of the mines in the marked areas, the condition and characteristics of the terrain, the rainfall or snow levels registered, the proximity of access roads, among others.

5. The request indicates the following progress to March 2011:

(a) In the Region of Arica y Parinacota, 17 areas have been addressed (with 8 of these pending certification) culminating in the clearance of 1,761,352 square meters and in the cancellation through non-technical means of 1,844,922 square meters having destroyed in the process 13,483 anti-personnel mines and 7,301 anti-tank mines destroyed.

(b) In the Region of Tarapaca, 1 area has been cleared and is pending certification culminating in the clearance of 12,932 square meters, and, with 124 anti-personnel mines destroyed.

(c) In the Region of Antofagasta, 27 areas have been addressed (with 13 areas pending certification) culminating in the clearance of 262,242 square meters and the cancellation through non-technical means of 4,175,274 square meters, and, with 10,384 anti-personnel mines and 2,116 anti-tank mines destroyed.

(d) In the Region of Valparaiso, 1 area has been cleared culminating in the clearance of 6,066 square meters, and, with 123 anti-personnel mines and 3 anti-tank mines destroyed.

(e) In the Region of Metropolitana, 1 area has been cleared culminating in the clearance of 80,560 square meters, and, with 238 anti-personnel mines destroyed.

(f) In the Region of Magallanes and Antartica Chilena, 7 areas have been addressed (with 2 areas pending certification) culminating in the clearance of 203,652 square meters and the cancellation through non-technical means of 1,036,359 square meters, and, with 861 anti-personnel mines and 2,936 anti-tank mines destroyed.

6. The request indicates that the majority of mined and dangerous areas are located in areas that do not directly affect communities and that marking efforts and monitoring of these areas by the Armed Forces of Chile has been a key factor in ensuring a reduced number of victims with a total of 43 victims since the 1970s with the last accident occurring in 2005. The request also indicates that there have been significant socio-economic gains made since entry into force as a result of Article 5 implementation. The request indicates that clearance work in the Region of Arica y Parinacota has released areas in very close proximity to communities and populations which will improve the conditions of security and vehicle transit, both private and commercial, and productive cooperation within the region. The request indicates that the clearance and certification of minefields in the sector of Tambo Quemado has released an area in which a bi-national, integrated, customs complex will be built which will facilitate transit activities and improve conditions for commercial exchange between Chile and Bolivia. The request also indicates that clearance

carried out in the sector of Quebrada Escritos on both sides of the international road which links the towns of Tacna in Peru and Arica in Chile will permit the widening of the road.

7. As noted, Chile's request is for 8 years (until 1 March 2020). The request indicates that the amount of time is based on the assessment of the geographical and climatologically conditions as well as the availability of personnel which affects the fulfilment of the timeframe established by Article 5. The request indicates that in areas of difficult access operations can be carried out solely in favourable conditions in order to ensure safety, supplying of the units and, especially, to ensure the evacuation of personnel in case of an accident during operations.

8. The 10MSP President asked Chile if, given the apparent increase in land release using new techniques, Chile believed it is in a position to be more ambitious and develop an operational plan which would see Chile fulfil its Article 5 obligations in a period of less than the requested 8 years. Chile responded by indicating that the experience and lessons learned over the last three years, with the total number of units in operation and the incorporation of 5 mechanical clearance units in 2008, were considered to readjust the work plan from 10 years to 8 years to permit the fulfilment of obligations under Article 5. Chile further indicated that it would be irresponsible to assume a more accelerated timeframe for fulfilment of these obligations considering as well the number of factors which hinder progress as expressed within the extension request.

9. The request indicates the following as impeding circumstances: (a) restrictions due to geography and climatic conditions in the majority of the affected areas; (b) difficult working environment for personnel leading to the shortening of working hours; (c) peat terrain requiring the excavation of mines; and (g) the deterioration of mechanical equipment operating in these extreme environments.

10. The request contains tables indicating how much area in which locations will be addressed in each year of the extension request. It is projected that in 2011, 19 areas measuring a total of 3,100,836 square meters will be addressed and 23 areas will be certified; in 2012, 24 areas measuring a total of 1,584,512 square meters will be addressed and certified; in 2013, 26 areas measuring a total of 1,410,605 square meters will be addressed and certified; in 2014, 20 areas measuring a total of 4,221,145 square meters will be addressed and certified; in 2015, 11 areas measuring a total of 932,321 square meters will be addressed and certified; in 2016, 18 areas measuring a total of 1,684,192 square meters will be addressed and certified; in 2017, 15 areas measuring a total of 3,244,659 square meters will be addressed and 16 will be certified; in 2018, 11 areas measuring a total of 1,021,889 square meters will be addressed and; in 2019, 2 areas measuring a total of 70,999 square meters will be addressed and certified; and, in 2020, 1 area measuring a total of 17,940 square meters will be addressed and certified.

11. The request indicated that security of demining personnel is the central concern in the development of mine clearance operation in Chile and that mine clearance operations in Chile are carried out through four phases: planning, preparation, clearance, and certification. The request indicates that Chile employs manual mine clearance techniques including through visual detection, trip wire techniques, vegetation cutting techniques, metal detection techniques, excavation and probing techniques and the use of Air Spade clearance procedures. The request indicates that all mines are destroyed in situ. The request also indicates that mechanical mine clearance methods are also used with work being divided into three phases: area preparation, full clearance of interior of area as demarcated by the technical survey, and clearance of outer border of area, if necessary on the basis of the results of the technical survey. The request indicates that all areas are subject to a certification process before they are released.

12. The 10MSP President requested addition information on how Chile intends to deal with “dangerous areas” and the steps that are being taken in the event that the missing mines are not found in mined areas. Chile responded by indicating that Chile collects all the historical information concerning the work with took place in these areas followed by a technical survey. Chile indicated that in the majority of cases these areas, conditions allowing, are treated through mechanical means and at other times through a mix of manual and mechanical means. Chile indicated that the procedure to be used depends on the results of technical surveys that are carried out in each dangerous area, establishing in each case the specific area for intervention in search of the missing mines. Chile also indicated that there is always the threat of not finding 100 percent of mines given the amount of time that has passed. Chile also indicated that to minimize this risk, the analysis of the technical study is deepened during the execution of operations, taking the time to adequately assess with greater certainty what could have happened in this specific area. Chile further indicated that this is the same approach to areas where mines have been displaced. The analysing group noted that it would be useful if Chile could provided greater clarity on its plans to use other means to release land (including non-technical and technical survey) and how such survey activities might affect its overall work plan. The analysing group also encouraged Chile to revise national mine action standards and policies to include land release methods.

13. The analysing group noted with satisfaction that Chile is employing the full range of methods to permit the safe return of land to the population and encouraged Chile to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Chile fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. In this regard, the analysing group noted the importance of Chile continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with commitments the States Parties had made through the adoption of the Cartagena Action Plan by providing information disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey.

14. The request indicates that Chile projects that US\$61.3 million will be required for activities related to the implementation of Article 5 during the period of 2011-2020. This includes funds for the operation of 11 units including the acquisition and renovation of demining equipment. The request further indicates that Chile, since 2003, has invested its own resources into humanitarian demining through the provision of technical support totalling approximately US\$16.6 million. The request further indicated that Chile intends to cover the full cost of fulfilling its obligations under Article 5.

15. The request includes other relevant information that may be of use to the States Parties in assessing and considering the request, including a detailed assessment of the remaining threat, a map of the area in question and photographs and description of the mines that are found within these area as well as other relevant photographs and tables.

16. The analysing group further noted that, while the plan presented is workable, the fact that Chile indicates that it has implemented enhanced processes to release land suggests that Chile may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested. The analysing group added that doing so could benefit both the Convention and Chile itself given the indication by Chile of the socio-economic benefits that will flow from demining.

17. The analysing group noted that the timeline contained in the request would greatly assist Chile and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. In this regard, the analysing group noted that both could benefit if Chile provided updates relative to these timelines at meetings of the Standing Committees, Meetings of the States Parties, and Review Conferences.