

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

29 November 2019

- i. The Conference assessed the request submitted by Chad for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 (1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 January 2025.
- ii. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while it appeared that Chad had made efforts to comply with its commitments, information provided on progress made could be communicated with greater clarity and in an unequivocal manner by reporting in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards, by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared. Likewise, the Conference noted the importance of Chad reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with the IMAS in a manner disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas.
- iii. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, by requesting a five-year extension, Chad was projecting that it would need approximately five years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge and clear confirmed hazardous areas. In granting the request the Conference noted that a detailed annual work plan for survey and a plan for database clean-up was missing. The Conference welcomed Chad's commitment to updating its workplan to include more up-to-date information as well as its efforts to reorganize, strengthen and improve the working environment of the National High Commission for Demining (HCND).
- iv. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Chad ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied 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. The Conference further encouraged Chad to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques, which could lead to Chad fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Chad in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Chad in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.
- v. The Conference, in recalling that the implementation of Chad's national demining plan may be affected by the results pending survey and the security situation, the Conference requested that Chad submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2022 an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, using terminology consistent with the IMAS, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with by which organisation during the remaining period covered by the request, matched with a revised detailed budget.
- vi. Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that while the plan presented by Chad is ambitious and clearly states which factors could affect implementation, its success is contingent on the result of ongoing clearance efforts and on sizable amount of external funding. In this

regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Chad informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:

- a. Annual progress of land release activities, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards, including the identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Chad's work plan;
 - b. Updated information on the full range of practical methods used to release land, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems;
 - c. Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Chad to support implementation efforts;
 - d. Regular updates on changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
 - e. Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
 - f. Updates regarding the structure of Chad's mine action program, in particular the *Haut commissariat national de Déminage* (or *HCND*, the mine action authority in Chad), and;
 - g. Updates on progress with the database clean up undertaken as part of the PRODECO project (*Project to support mine clearance, development, and social protection of vulnerable people in northern and western Chad*).
- vii. The Conference noted the importance, in addition to Chad reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.