

Decisions on the request submitted by Ethiopia 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 Ethiopia 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 31 December 2025.
- ii. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Ethiopia had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and develop plans accordingly to complete implementation by its deadline in 2020, the Conference welcomed Ethiopia's commitment to reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination, increase its capacity and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.
- iii. In granting the request, the Conference noted that Ethiopia was projecting that it would need approximately five years and six months to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Conference, in recalling that the implementation of Ethiopia's national demining plan may be affected by outcomes of agreements on survey and clearance on its border with Eritrea, pending survey, increased cooperation and partnership with international organizations and mine clearance operators, requested that Ethiopia submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2021 and by the 30 April 2023 updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area that would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget.
- iv. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Ethiopia ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards, 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 Ethiopia to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques, which could lead to Ethiopia fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame and in a more cost-effective manner. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Ethiopia in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Ethiopia in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Conference further noted the importance of Ethiopia continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.
- v. Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that both Ethiopia and all States Parties would benefit if Ethiopia's national demining plan incorporated its intentions concerning mined areas it has reported along the Ethiopian-Eritrean border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along the Ethiopian-Eritrean border. The Conference noted Ethiopia's commitment in keeping the States Parties

informed by reporting on information on and plans to deal with mined areas along Ethiopia's common border with Eritrea.

- vi. Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted Ethiopia's interest and plan to contact and collaborate with international partners to support their implementation of Ethiopia's survey and clearance plan within their extension request. The Conference noted that the involvement of national and international non-governmental mine clearance organizations could support Ethiopia in implementing its mine clearance plans in a more efficient manner.
- vii. In granting the request the Conference noted that while the plan presented by Ethiopia is ambitious, but workable, and lends itself well to be monitored, its success is based on significant contributions from the international community and increased cooperation and partnership from international mine action organizations. In this regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Ethiopia reporting annually by 30 April to the States Parties, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:
 - a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Ethiopia's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period, disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared, and their impact on annual targets as given in Ethiopia'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. Together with relevant information on the training of national mine personnel, operators in new methodologies and quality control;
 - c. Progress on the agreement of Ethiopia and Eritrea regarding plans to address antipersonnel contamination in border areas, including national institutions involved in the effort, process of the work, and annual milestones;
 - d. Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Ethiopia to support implementation efforts;
 - e. Updates regarding efforts to collaborate with international and non-governmental organisations to support implementation of the plan within the extension request;
 - f. 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.
- viii. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Ethiopia 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, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.