

UPDATE ON THE ARTICLE 5 EXTENSIONS / ANALYSIS PROCESS

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President of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties**

Standing Committee on Mine Clearance

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At the 7MSP in 2006, the States Parties agreed to a process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extensions of Article 5 deadlines.

This process was complemented by the 12MSP's endorsement of 14 recommendations contained in a paper entitled "Reflections on the Article 5 Extension Process."

As well, on the basis of additional decisions taken at the 12MSP, this process is now equally applicable for States Parties which, if after an original or extended deadline to implement Article 5 have expired, as an exceptional circumstance, discovers a mined area or areas,

The purpose of my intervention is to report to you on this year's application of this process.

With respect to this process, States Parties requesting extensions or extended deadlines are encouraged to submit their requests to the President no less than nine months before the Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference at which their requests would be considered.

In addition, the President, upon receipt of requests, is to inform the States Parties and make these requests openly available in keeping with the Convention's practice of transparency.

In line with these aspects of the process, I wrote to the States Parties on May 16th to inform them that the following requests had been received by that date:

- Serbia, received on the 27 March 2013
- Sudan, received on the 27 March 2013

- Turkey, received on 29 March 2013
- Germany, received on 15 April 2013
- Chad, received on 2 May 2013

In addition, I wish to inform you that late on Friday I also received a request from Mozambique.

These six requests have been made available on the Convention's web site.

With a view to streamlining our work, and in line with the recommendations of the 12MSP, I immediately invited expert input on the requests that had been submitted prior to 30 April. Subsequently, input was also invited on Chad's request.

As was the case last year, the following organizations were invited to provide input on the understanding that they are the world's leading not-for-profit organisations with demining expertise, which both have widespread international experience and are active in and knowledgeable about the work of the Convention:

- APOPO
- DanChurchAid
- Danish Demining Group
- Handicap International
- HALO Trust
- GICHD
- ICBL
- ICRC
- The Mines Advisory Group
- Norwegian People's Aid, and
- The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, or FSD.

Of these organizations, the following provided input with respect to some or all of the requests:

- The ICRC
- THE ICBL
- Mines Advisory Group
- Norwegian People's Aid

In addition to this, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee carried out pre-analysis work, sending questions to Serbia, Sudan and Turkey requesting clarity on some of the information provided in their requests.

To date, Sudan has responded to the questions which have been posed.

On May 23th, the analysing group met for the first time this year to begin its work.

Analysing group members once again expressed appreciation at this meeting for the expert input that had been provided.

In addition, in keeping with past practice, I invited the ICBL and ICRC to address the group and directly provide their input.

This week, in keeping with past practice, we have invited representatives of the requesting States Parties to join the analysing group for informal question and answer sessions.

Our next step will be to establish what additional clarifications we may require from requesting States and what additional expertise we may need to assist us in ultimately producing analyses of the requests.

Should this process result in States Parties submitting revised requests, as has occurred in previous years, I will inform all delegations and ensure that these requests are made available on the Convention's website.

The analysing group will meet as necessary in order to conclude as much as our work as possible by July, as recommended by the 12MSP.

I would highlight as well that on March 22nd and April 19th the ISU led briefings for the analysing group to ensure that we had the background we needed on Article 5 and the Article 5 extensions process.

Analysing group members attending these briefings benefitted greatly and the analysing group is now better equipped in terms of our knowledge of this process and the agreed working methods.

Finally, let me thank, the requesting States Parties for their efforts in preparing their requests and for their engagement with the Analysing Group.