

**Notes for ICRC statement on States that have been granted extensions
on deadlines for implementing Article 5,
12th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention,
Geneva, 5 December 2012**

The ICRC would like to thank all States Parties that have provided an update today on their progress towards fulfilling their extended Article 5 deadlines.

We note that this group of 20 States Parties, which have received extensions of their Article 5 deadlines, now outnumber those States still striving to meet their original deadlines. With another four extension requests submitted this year, 24 States with remaining Article 5 obligations will have obtained extensions, with more requests expected to be submitted in 2013. As stated regularly over the years, including yesterday by France, extension requests should be the exception rather than the rule, but unfortunately this has not proven to be the case.

On the positive side, we were very pleased to hear that **Mozambique** expects to complete clearance before its 2014 deadline. To achieve this goal, we hope that demining of the Zimbabwe border can commence in the near future. We acknowledge the enormous efforts being undertaken by Mozambique and its partners to meet its Article 5 deadline in the face of significant challenges. We look forward to working together with Mozambique in its role as incoming co-Chair on mine clearance, to which it will bring a lot of valuable experience.

We are impressed by the efforts undertaken by **Peru and Ecuador** to achieve cross-border clearance by their respective deadlines, or even sooner, as detailed in the side event they hosted yesterday. We thank them for prioritising humanitarian concerns over political issues, which has required substantial commitment by both sides and serves as a very positive example to other States with cross-border minefields. We also note the efforts made by Thailand and Cambodia to commence joint border mine clearance.

The ICRC also welcomes the statements by some States, including **Algeria and Mauritania**, that they should meet their extended deadlines on time, and in the case of **Venezuela**, ahead of time. We encourage all those States that have reported they are still on track to meeting their deadlines to keep up the good work.

In relation to the **United Kingdom**, we recognise its efforts to address clearance challenges in the Falklands / Malvinas Islands and welcome the news that at least another 5 mined areas will be cleared in the coming months. We also welcome the United Kingdom's renewed expression of commitment to meeting its Article 5 obligations. We trust that it will soon produce a detailed clearance plan for at least the coming 2-3 years, as requested in the decision on its extension request at the 9th MSP.

The ICRC remains concerned by the large number of States that are falling behind in their survey and clearance plans. At the current rates of survey and clearance, many States will not meet their extended deadlines. We urge them to multiply their efforts to secure more progress, while encouraging all States in a position to assist them to do so. We are also concerned that some States have not yet reported if they are on track to meet their deadline and we encourage them to do so by the 2013 Intersessional Meetings.

In line with the recommendations of the 11MSP President on the Extension Requests Process, we would suggest that all States that have fallen behind schedule should submit a revised clearance plan to the States Parties detailing their plans for the next 2-5 years. This will not only help the States Parties assess progress in fulfilling Article 5 obligations, it should help States that are in the process of implementing those obligations to renew their efforts in line with a realistic and time-bound plan.