

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

20 November 2020

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Colombia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2025.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Colombia had largely complied with the commitments it had made in 2010, Colombia has an incomplete picture of the remaining challenges. The Meeting noted that a more accurate estimate of the amount of time and resources required to complete implementation of Article 5 will only be progressively acquired as survey activities continues.
3. The Meeting noted the importance of Colombia identifying as soon as possible the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establishing an updated evidence-based baseline of contamination in the remaining municipalities. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Colombia ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.
4. The Meeting noted the importance of Colombia continuing to reporting in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size and reporting on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).
5. In noting that Colombia provided implementation milestones for the period of 2020-2023 and Colombia's intention to review its work plan in 2023, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension containing an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget.
6. The Meeting further noted the importance of the plan containing a detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities as well as provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.
7. While the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Colombia is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation, the plan is contingent upon stable funding, security, retaining strong partnerships with international stakeholders and other matters creating an environment conducive for implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Colombia's Humanitarian Demining Operational Plan 2020-2025 during the extension period, including on the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS;
 - b. update on how additional clarity obtained may change Colombia's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge;
 - c. adjusted milestones including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
 - d. progress made relative to the development and adoption of land release standards and other efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including through an efficient process of allocation and re-allocation of municipalities and/or areas;
 - e. progress made in the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
 - f. changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
 - g. progress made to strengthen the inclusive nature of Colombia's Mine Action Programme through the establishment of a humanitarian demining platform, including the terms of reference, scope, membership and meeting frequency;
 - h. information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
 - i. updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age; and
 - j. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Colombia to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.
8. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Colombia reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its 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 Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.