

Draft decisions on the request submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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 the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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 1 July 2022.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Third Review Conference , to complete implementation by its deadline in 2021, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made commendable progress. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo was projecting that it would need approximately eighteen months to complete the survey of suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas.
3. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, the Democratic Republic of the Congo could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy. In this context the Meeting noted the importance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo keeping the States Parties apprised of steps to fulfill its commitments and of providing further details on the costs associated with implementation of Article 5.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Democratic Republic of the Congo is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Committee also noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is contingent upon security related access, financial allocation from State budgets, stable and uninterrupted international funding and an increasing the capacity of organizations involved in clearance activities. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from the Democratic Republic of the Congo reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:
 - a) Progress of land release relative to the commitments listed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's work plan, disaggregated in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and clearance through clearance);
 - b) The impact of survey outcomes in Aru territory (Ituri Province) and Dungu territory (Haut-Uele Province) and annual milestones as given in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's work plan, including adjusted milestones to national work plan based on new evidence including on the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed annually, and on how priorities have been established;
 - c) Progress on security-related access matters and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
 - d) 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;

- e) Updates regarding detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities;
- f) Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including efforts in approaching potential donors and organisations in order to fund and assist in the implementation of clearance operations and the result of these efforts, including an expected timeline for recruitment, training and management of new or additional capacities; and
- g) Progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.

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