

Draft decisions on the request submitted by Senegal 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 Senegal 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 March 2026.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Senegal was unable to fulfil the commitments it had made, as recorded by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that while it may be unfortunate that approximately twenty years since entry into force a State Party is unable to specify how much work remains and how it will be carried out, it is positive that Senegal intends to renew efforts to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and addressing remaining contamination during the extension period.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as Senegal has made it clear that the provision of external support is necessary to fully implement the plan contained within its request, Senegal could inspire greater confidence on the part of those in a position to provide assistance by providing as soon as possible clarity regarding the remaining scope of the problem and engaging with partners on the ground to increase its survey and clearance capacity. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Senegal could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of Senegal reporting in a manner consistent with 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). The Meeting further noted the importance of Senegal ensuring as soon as possible that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.
5. In recalling that the implementation of Senegal’s national demining plan may be affected by the precarious security conditions and the need for collaboration of the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) for access to target areas, amongst other matters, and that following the first years of implementation circumstances may change, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Senegal submitting to the States Parties an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2023, for the remaining period covered by the extension.
6. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the updated workplan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget. 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. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Senegal could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy including strengthening its partnership with international organizations. In this context the Meeting noted the importance of the Senegal keeping the States Parties apprised of steps to fulfil its commitments and of providing further details on the costs associated with implementation of Article 5.
8. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the plan presented by Senegal is workable, lends itself to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Meeting further noted that the plan is based on allocations from State budgets and contingent upon stable international funding. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Senegal reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

 - a. Progress in implementation of Senegal's work plan, including annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period 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 annual progress on annual targets as given in Senegal's work plan, including updates to Senegal's national work plan, based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones, 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;
 - g. Update on efforts by Senegal to strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention (e.g. establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders) and the results of these efforts, and;
 - h. Progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.
9. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Senegal 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, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.