

**Draft decisions on the request submitted by South Sudan 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 South Sudan 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 9 July 2026.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that even with a consistent and sizeable effort having been undertaken by South Sudan going back even before entry into force of the Convention, South Sudan faces a significant remaining contamination challenge in order to fulfil its obligations under Article 5.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of South Sudan 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 South Sudan 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.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of South Sudan addressing information management challenges and ensuring that they maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. The Meeting further noted the importance of ensuring that the design and implementation of information management systems is nationally owned, sustainable and takes into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion.
5. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, South Sudan could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy. In this context the Meeting noted the importance of South Sudan 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.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as implementation of South Sudan's national demining plan may be affected by security-related access restrictions and the continued impact of COVID-19, and noting that the sector will require minor configurations to enable more efficient clearance of minefields, the Convention would benefit from South Sudan submitting to the States Parties periodic updated detailed work plans with the first of these being submitted by 30 April 2022, and the second by 30 April 2024, for the remaining period covered by the extension.
3. 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.

4. In granting the request the meeting noted that the plan presented by South Sudan is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect progress in implementation. The Meeting also noted that, as the success of the plan is contingent on significant co-contribution from international funding, access to the remaining contaminated areas, the re-structuring of current clearance teams, and the recruitment of two additional clearance teams, the Convention would benefit from South Sudan reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
  - a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in South Sudan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period, providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination and in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
  - b. The impact of annual progress on annual targets as given in South Sudan's work plan including adjusted milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
  - c. Progress on security-related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
  - d. Efforts made to reconfigure their personnel to form larger teams and the results of these efforts;
  - e. 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;
  - f. Updates regarding the structure of South Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion; and
  - g. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of South Sudan to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to strengthen the capacity of the National Mine Action Authority and facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to South Sudan 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 for Reporting.