

Draft decisions on the request submitted by Ukraine 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 Ukraine 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 December 2023.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that - as in its request for extension of its 1 June 2016 deadline - Ukraine has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that it does not have effective control over the areas in question. The Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine providing information on changes to the status of the control of the mined areas, as part of the Article 5 Implementation process.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine reporting in a manner consistent with 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). The Meeting further noted the importance of Ukraine 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 Ukraine ensuring that it applies all provisions and obligations under the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (e.g. trip-wire grenades) along with all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregating by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, given that the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence together with interested national authorities prepares the "Activity Plan on Humanitarian Demining of Liberated Territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions for 2020", the States Parties would benefit from Ukraine ensuring that it updates its national work plan based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in its Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established. The Meeting further noted that, as the request did not contain a budget for implementation, Ukraine would benefit from including in its annual updates information on costs for implementation.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Ukraine is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the progress in implementation. The Meeting further noted that the plan's success is contingent on access to the remaining contaminated areas, the need for stable national funding and the mobilization of international financial and technical resources, engagement with international stakeholders and the creation of an environment conducive for organizations involved in mine action activities, including the establishment of a national mine action Centre. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ukraine reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress and results of land release activities relative to the commitments made in Ukraine's annual work plan, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information 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. Report 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) and how additional clarity obtained may alter Ukraine's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge;
 - b. annual updated work plan based on new evidence containing adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually, how priorities have been established and costs for implementation;
 - c. changes to the status of the control of mined areas and how these changes positively or negatively affect survey and clearance of mined areas;
 - d. updated information on the development and adoption of National Mine Action Legislation and the establishment of a national mine action centre;
 - e. updates on the steps taken by Ukraine to ensure the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes;
 - f. 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
 - g. updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available from Ukraine's state budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts.
7. The Meeting further noted the importance, in addition to Ukraine 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.