

**Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the  
Request for extension submitted by Mauritania**

Mr. President (Chair),

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation welcomes the efforts made by Mauritania in the preparation of its extension request.

The Committee also welcomes the comments on this request provided by expert organizations, including from the Mine Action Review.

- In its Article 7 report submitted on 23 June 2020, Mauritania reported the discovery of previously unknown mined areas and,
- On 26 June 2020, Mauritania submitted a request for an extended deadline to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.
- Following dialogue with the Committee, Mauritania submitted additional information on 16 September.
- Mauritania's request is for an extended deadline until 31 January 2022

In analysing Mauritania's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee noted that, while it is unfortunate that Mauritania has discovered previously unknown mined areas, it is positive that Mauritania has acted in accordance with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties for situations in which a State Party, after its original or extended deadline to implement Article 5 has expired, as an exceptional circumstance, discovers a mined area (as defined by Article 2.5 of the Convention), including a newly mined area, under its jurisdiction or control that is known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

The Committee noted that it is also positive that Mauritania is requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information and then submitting a new request for extension by 31 March 2021 containing plans based on a clearer understanding of the extent of the challenge, and which project with greater certainty the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation.

The Committee also noted that the plan is ambitious and contingent upon funding, partnerships with international stakeholders and other matters creating an environment conducive for implementation activities, including the impact of the current situation faced with Covid-19.

The Committee noted the importance of the request being submitted by Mauritania by 31 March 2021, the importance of developing the request through an inclusive process, taking into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities, and including the following, amongst other information:

- a. detailed , costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period, containing information on progress made, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with the 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 based on new funding levels;

- b. detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account;
- c. plans for the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
- d. the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension;
- e. resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Mauritania to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Mauritania 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 and Meetings of the States Parties, as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.