

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

Mr. President (Chair),

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation welcomes the efforts made by Niger in the preparation of its extension request, which have allowed for a cooperative dialogue to take place between Niger and the Committee.

The Committee also welcomes the comments on the request provided by expert organizations, including from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Mine Action Review.

- On 28 May 2020, Niger submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 31 December 2020 deadline.
- Niger's request is for 4 years, until 31 December 2024.

I would like to share some key points of the Analysis of the Committee.

- The Committee welcomed the information from Niger on its progress made and remaining challenge noting that more clarity could be provided by Niger providing this information in a manner consistent with International Mine Action Standards.
- The Committee further indicated that it would welcome information on the methodologies and national standards employed and their conformity with International Mine Action Standards.
- The Committee welcomes the information provided by Niger on its national efforts to increase its resources in 2020 with the training of additional deminers and would welcome an update with the impact of these new resources on the timeline established in the request.
- The Committee noted that the request includes a detailed costed work and multi-year work plan for the extension period. However, the Committee noted that, unfortunately, the request lacks annual benchmarks of progress. The Committee noted the importance of Niger providing annual projections for survey and clearance and information on methodologies and standards that will be applied.
- In addition to the remaining challenge highlighted in the request, the Committee recalled the importance of Niger applying all provisions and obligations under the Convention to all types of anti-personnel mines, including anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature.
- The Committee positively welcomed information from Niger of the national contribution from its government to implementation and highlighted that demonstrating national ownership in this manner could help facilitate resource mobilization efforts. The Committee further noted the importance of Niger providing information on the current resources/capacity available, as well as additional resources/capacity required to achieve completion by the deadline.

The Committee noted that, as the work plan submitted by Niger does not contain annual milestones, the Committee requested that Niger submits an updated detailed work plan containing annual milestone by 30 April 2021 and covering the remaining period covered by the extension.

The Committee noted that this work plan should contain 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.

The Committee further noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Niger's work 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 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).
- b. adjusted milestones including 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. 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 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. progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
- g. resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Niger to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and/or indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Niger reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its 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 Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.