

Decisions on the Request Submitted by Guinea-Bissau for an Extension of the Deadline for Completing the Destruction of Anti-Personnel Mines in Accordance with Article 5 of the Convention¹

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau for an extension of Guinea-Bissau's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 January 2012.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Guinea-Bissau had found itself in a situation wherein less than 14 months before its deadline it was still unclear whether it would be able to complete implementation of Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention by its deadline. The Meeting further noted that, while it may be unfortunate that after almost ten years since entry into force a State Party is unable to account for what remains to be done, it is positive that Guinea-Bissau intends to take the steps to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and to act accordingly. In addition, the Meeting noted that Guinea-Bissau will have obtained clarity regarding the remaining challenge following the conclusion of general survey at the end of April 2011. As well, the Meeting noted that Guinea-Bissau had acted in a prudent manner by requesting only the amount of time necessary to ensure that it would not become non-compliant.
- iii. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Guinea-Bissau has been slow to adopt efficient land release practices and that while its progress to date has been modest, Guinea-Bissau was making a commitment through its extension request to more efficiently and expediently proceed with Article 5 implementation. The Meeting further noted that the plan presented by Guinea-Bissau is workable, but subject to the acquisition of funds to keep all relevant non-governmental organisations in operation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that Guinea-Bissau's resource mobilisation efforts could benefit from communicating in more detail its cost projections for each organisation listed in its request and from Guinea Bissau itself making a national contribution to the implementation of Article 5.
- iv. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Guinea-Bissau provides for the use of the full range of technical and non-technical means to release suspected hazardous areas in keeping with the recommendations adopted by the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties. In this regard, the Meeting requested Guinea-Bissau to report on its progress in a manner consistent with commitments the States Parties had made through the adoption of the Cartagena Action Plan by providing information disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey.
- v. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the timeline contained in the request would greatly assist Guinea-Bissau and all States Parties in assessing progress between now and the requested extended deadline. In this regard, the Meeting requested Guinea-Bissau to provide updates relative to these timelines at meetings of the Standing Committees and at Meetings of the State Parties.