

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

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Zimbabwe for an extension of Zimbabwe'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 2013.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Zimbabwe had not complied with the commitment it had made, as recorded by the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and to develop plans accordingly that precisely project the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation, it is positive that Zimbabwe has committed, by 1 January 2013, to have built its capacity, improved its efficiency, carried out surveys and engaged those in a position to provide assistance.
- iii. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as Zimbabwe has made it clear that the provision of external support is necessary to fully implement the plan contained within its request, Zimbabwe could inspire greater confidence on the part of those in a position to provide assistance by increasing national ownership and enhancing its humanitarian demining effort in ways that would cost little, including by adopting IMAS-compliant national standards and strengthening civilian demining authorities.
- iv. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that while it may be unfortunate that after almost twelve years since entry into force a State Party is unable to specify how much work remains and how it will be carried out, it is positive that Zimbabwe intends to reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge. In this context, the Meeting noted the importance of Zimbabwe requesting only the period of time necessary to assess relevant facts and develop a meaningful forward looking plan based on these facts. The Meeting further noted that, by requesting an additional 24 month extension, Zimbabwe was projecting that it would need approximately two years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge, produce a detailed plan and submit a third extension request.
- v. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the timeline contained in the request would greatly assist Zimbabwe and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. The Meeting noted in particular the commitments made by Zimbabwe to undertake, within 12 months, non-technical survey of the four "unknown areas" (Rushinga, Lusulu, Mukumbura and Kariba) and technical survey of parts of the five "known minefields", to relocate, within 12 months, ZIMAC "out of military cantonment area", and, to develop, within 24 months, Zimbabwean mine action standards that are based on the IMAS. In this regard, the Meeting requested Zimbabwe, in accordance with Action 13 of the Cartagena Action Plan, to provide updates relative to these and other commitments at meetings of the Standing Committees and at Meetings of the States Parties.