

Decisions on the request submitted by Mozambique for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

5 December 2013

- a. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Mozambique for an extension of Mozambique'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 31 December 2014.
- b. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Mozambique had proceeded with implementation in a commendable manner since its original request for an extended deadline was granted in 2008, with more than three times the areas addressed relative to 2008 plans thus compensating for the fact that Mozambique's implementation challenge was more than three times 2008 estimates.
- c. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while completion is now within sight, the implementation of Mozambique's plan by 31 December 2014 is contingent upon assumptions that may not hold. The Meeting noted in particular that meeting this deadline is subject to both the conclusion of a cooperation agreement with Zimbabwe and the ability of Mozambique to demine throughout calendar year 2014 (which was not the case in 2013). As well, the Meeting noted that as "temporary insecurity" had impeded demining in the past, additional incidents of this nature could impact timely completion of implementation. The Meeting noted that, should Mozambique be granted a ten-month extension but not be able to complete implementation by 31 December 2014, it would find itself in a state of non-compliance with the Convention.
- d. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that the request does not contain benchmarks for progress which would assist Mozambique and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period, which will be especially important given that assumptions central to the plan may not hold. In this regard, the Meeting requested that Mozambique report to the States Parties, by 1 March 2014, on the following:
 - i. Progress regarding the projection in the request that the 221 mined areas totalling 8,266,841 square meters (as of 31 August 2013) would be reduced to 100 tasks totalling 4,019,852 by 1 March 2014;
 - ii. Time-bound benchmarks for progress for the extension period;
 - iii. Progress in concluding a cooperation agreement with Zimbabwe;
 - iv. Whether the demining efforts again had been affected by instances of "temporary insecurity";
 - v. The role of the Mozambican Armed Defence Forces in supporting completion of Article 5 implementation; and
 - vi. Resources obtained relative to needs expressed in the request, including resources provided by the Government of Mozambique itself.