

**Decisions on the Request Submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina for an Extension of the Deadline for Completing the Destruction of Anti-Personnel Mines in Accordance with Article 5 of the Convention<sup>1</sup>**

**28 November 2008**

26. At its final plenary session, taking into account the analyses presented by the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties of the requests submitted under article 5 of the Convention and the requests themselves, the Meeting took the following decisions:

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina for an extension of Bosnia and Herzegovina's deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2019.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, even with a consistent and sizeable effort having been undertaken by Bosnia and Herzegovina going back even before entry into force of the Convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina faces a significant remaining challenge in order to fulfil its obligations under article 5. The Meeting further noted that, while the plan presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina's request is workable and ambitious, its success is contingent upon increased performance in technical survey, an ongoing, although decreasing, high level of donor funding and the initiation of and thereafter constantly increased funds provided by local governments. In addition, the Meeting noted the importance of clarity regarding which areas of what size and at what locations remain to be addressed in each administrative area.

(...)

27. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting noted that many of the States Parties that had submitted requests for extensions had highlighted the importance of obtaining resources in order to implement the plans contained in their requests. The Meeting encouraged requesting States Parties, as relevant, to develop as soon as possible resource mobilisation strategies that take into account the need to reach out to a wide range of national and international funding sources. The Meeting furthermore encouraged all States Parties in a position to do so to honour their commitments to fulfilling their obligations under article 6.4 of the Convention to provide assistance for mine clearance and related activities.

28. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting noted that the accounting of the remaining mined areas contained in many extension requests would serve as a foundation for a resource mobilisation strategy and greatly assist both requesting States Parties and all others in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. The Meeting encouraged those requesting States Parties that have not yet done so to provide an accounting of annual milestones of progress to be achieved during extension periods. The Meeting furthermore encouraged all States Parties whose requests had been considered by the Ninth Meeting to provide updates relative to their accounting of

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpts from the Final Report of the 24 November – 28 November 2008 Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, United Nations Document # APLC/MSP.9/2008/4.

remaining mined areas and/or annual benchmarks for progress at meetings of the Standing Committees, at the Second Review Conference and at Meetings of the States Parties.

29. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Meeting warmly welcomed the report presented by the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties on the process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extensions to Article 5 deadlines, as contained in document APLC/MSP.9/2008/WP.35, and agreed to encourage States Parties, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations contained therein.