

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

4 December 2009

24. Taking into account the analyses presented by the President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties of the requests submitted under article 5 of the Convention and the requests themselves, the Conference took the following decisions:

(...)

- vii. The Conference assessed the request submitted by Tajikistan for an extension of Tajikistan's deadline for 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 April 2020.
- viii. In granting the request the Conference noted that, while no demining had taken place until more than four years after entry into force, since that time significant progress has been made, particularly by the release of land through resurvey. The Conference further noted that, while the plan presented is workable as concerns two of the three regions of Tajikistan in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced, differing views on the extent to which mechanical demining assets may be applicable suggest that Tajikistan may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested. In this context, the Conference noted that doing so could benefit Tajikistan in ensuring that the dire humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by it in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.
- ix. Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that both Tajikistan and all States Parties would benefit if Tajikistan's national demining plan incorporated its intentions as concerns mined areas it has reported along the Tajik-Uzbek border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along the Tajik-Uzbek border.
- x. Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that as Tajikistan projects that it will require slightly more funds on an annual basis than it has received in recent years, Tajikistan could benefit from increasing its frequency of contact with donors and clearly communicating the socio-economic development benefits that would flow from completing article 5 implementation.

(...)

25. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Conference noted that three 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 Conference 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

¹ Excerpts from the Final Report of the 30 November – 4 December 2009 Second Review Conference 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/CONF/2009/9.

funding sources. The Conference 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.

26. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Conference noted that the ongoing effort to implement article 5 during States Parties' requested extension periods has the potential of making a significant contribution to improving human safety and socio-economic conditions.
27. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Conference 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 Conference 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 Conference furthermore encouraged all States Parties whose requests had been considered by the Second Review Conference to provide updates relative to their accounting of remaining mined areas and / or annual benchmarks for progress at meetings of the Standing Committees, at Meetings of the States Parties and at Review Conferences.
28. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Conference warmly welcomed the report presented by the President of the Ninth 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 and agreed to encourage States Parties, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations contained therein.