

**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**

APLC/CONF/2009/WP.4
29 October 2009

Original: ENGLISH

Cartagena de Indias, 30 November-4 December 2009

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Informal presentation of requests
submitted under Article 5 and of
the analysis of these requests**

**ANALYSIS OF THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY UGANDA FOR AN
EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE
DESTRUCTION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN ACCORDANCE
WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION***

Submitted by the President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties on behalf of the
States Parties mandated to analyse requests for extensions

1. Uganda ratified the Convention on 25 February 1999. The Convention entered into force for Uganda on 1 August 1999. In its initial transparency report submitted on 24 May 2002, Uganda reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Uganda was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 August 2009. As late as 27 May 2009, Uganda had informed the States Parties that it would fulfill its obligations by 1 August 2009. On 2 July 2009, Uganda wrote to the President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) to indicate that on the basis of an evaluation of new information, Uganda would not be able to comply with Article 5, paragraph 1 by its deadline and that it would submit a request for an extension by 31 August 2009. Uganda submitted on 10 August 2009 to the 9MSP a request for an extension of its deadline. Uganda's request is for 3 years (until 1 August 2012).

2. The request indicates that a "Needs Assessment" carried out in 2006-2007 identified 427 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). The request indicates that this survey had several limitations, such as not having covered the entire affected region and not providing data that could be used for planning purposes. The States Parties mandated to analyse requests submitted under Article 5 of the Convention (hereafter referred to as the "analysing group") noted that, while activities had been undertaken since 2006 to implement the Convention, no effort to

* / Submitted after due date and as soon as received by the Secretariat.

identify areas under Uganda's jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced had been undertaken in the seven year period between entry into force and 2006.

3. The request indicates that the 427 SHAs were revisited. Through a General Mine Action Assessment" (GMAA) carried out in November 2008, one (1) of these areas was confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines. This area, which is located in the Agoro Mountains in Kitgum District on the Ugandan-Sudan border, was determined to be approximately 130,000 square metres. It was subsequently subdivided into five (5) mined areas (Agoro 1, Agoro 2, Agoro 3, Agoro 4, and Agoro 5). Through an additional GMAA carried out in January 2009, an additional mined area was confirmed in Ngomoromo in Kitgum District with an approximate total size of 140,000 square metres.

4. The 9MSP President wrote to Uganda to ask whether Uganda is confident that it has now identified all areas under its jurisdiction or control that are dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines. Uganda responded by indicating that all known areas are located in Kitgum district in Northern Uganda and that these have been identified. Uganda also indicated that Western Uganda, particularly the district of Bundibugyu, has not yet been subject to a detailed survey. Uganda further responded by indicated that "it is likely that the threat in Bundibugyu would be of nuisance laid mines at the most." In addition, Uganda indicated that with an increase in capacity, a detailed survey could be completed in Bundibugyu in the near future, ensuring that all dangerous areas have been identified.

5. The request indicates that during the period of 2006-2008 clearance work involved explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) with a small number of mines having been destroyed. By 2009, 304 of the SHAs had been cleared resulting in the destruction of 62 anti-personnel mines, 12 anti-tank mines, 5,323 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO), and 19,553 pieces of small arms ammunition. The request also indicates that a total of 35 SHAs have been discredited, and 89 are pending UXO clearance. The request notes that 36 of the 61 mines recovered and destroyed in Uganda are associated with the two mined areas identified through the GMAA and the remaining 24 mines destroyed are "nuisance mines".

6. The request indicates that one of the 5 areas in the Agoro Mountains (Agoro 1) is undergoing technical survey and clearance and that as of July 2009, a total of 3,180.5 square metres had been cleared with 13 mines (type 72APM) destroyed. The request also indicates that technical survey and clearance in the Ngomoromo area began in April 2009 and is ongoing and that as of July 2009 a total of 2,874 square metres has been cleared with 23 mines (type PMD6) destroyed.

7. As noted, Uganda's request is for 3 years (until 1 August 2012). The request indicates that this is a realistic time period for all known mined areas, which cover approximately 263,945.3 square metres, to be cleared using all available demining assets at a medium cost of approximately US\$ 2.6 million per year. The request also indicates that the time period requested takes into account increasing the number of demining personnel from 67 to 117 and that the acquisition of mechanical equipment in the near future is a possibility. The analysing group noted that with Uganda committed to take steps to increase capacity and given the possibility of

mechanical support becoming available, Uganda may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested.

8. The request indicates the following as impeding circumstances: (a) the late commencement of clearance operations and establishment of a mine action programme; (b) security in affected areas due to rebel attacks on the civilian population; (c) an inadequate resource supply; (d) multiplicity of operational and management challenges; and, (e) unfavourable weather conditions such as heavy rainfall, leading to flooding.

9. The 9MSP President wrote to Uganda noting the extremely low density of mines in the areas in question and to inquire if Uganda has considered how it could more effectively use technical and non-technical survey to more efficiently deploy clearance assets to where they are really required, which in turn could increase the pace of implementation. Uganda responded by indicating that non-technical survey has been completed in all areas of concern in both in Agoro and Ngomoromo and that none of the areas are in use due to the suspected presence of mines. Uganda further responded to indicate that technical survey is ongoing in Ngomoromo where mines are being found along the 4 kilometre frontage and that with an increased capacity technical survey can and will be implemented in the remaining areas in Agoro. In addition, Uganda indicated that, without a known pattern or record of mines laid, the areas of concern remains as either known mined areas or suspected mined areas.

10. The request indicates that technical survey is currently ongoing in the Ngomoromo mined area and in Agoro 1, and, that technical survey in Agoro 2-5 is pending. The request further indicates that, while completion of technical survey may reduce the total clearance requirements, the requested extension period is based on the assumption that 100 percent of the areas in question will require clearance. Given this, the President of the 9MSP wrote to Uganda to inquire if Uganda is in a position to estimate what might actually require clearance, particularly based on the experience of technical survey activities that have already taken place. Uganda responded by indicating that in Ngomoromo the area requiring clearance is a 4 kilometre frontage and that, as mines are laid in no particular pattern, the whole frontage is believed to be mined and will require clearance. Uganda further responded to indicate that in Agoro the first of the five areas has been surveyed and that in the remaining four suspected mined areas there is a high suspicion that mines will be found given past casualties and information from the local population.

11. The request provides annual projection of the total area to be released each year between August 2009 and August 2012. Between August 2009 and December 2009, Uganda intends to clear 27,500 square metres (15,000 square metres in Ngomoromo and 12,500 square metres in Agoro Mountains). In 2010 Uganda intends to clear 137,500 square metres (52,500 square metres in Ngomoromo and 85,000 square metres in Agoro Mountains). In 2011 Uganda intends to clear 85,000 square metres (52,500 square metres in Ngomoromo and 32,500 square metres in Agoro Mountains). In 2012 Uganda intends to clear the remaining 20,000 square metres in Ngomoromo.

12. The request indicates that the length of time required for clearance is largely based on Uganda's assumption that 7.7 square metres per day per deminer would be cleared during the extension period. Noting that a Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining study

indicates that the average clearance rate is about 15-20 square metres per day per deminer, including in remote locations that contain heavy vegetation, the 9MSP President wrote to Uganda to seek further information about Uganda's assumption, asking if Uganda was using an overly conservative estimate and/or if Uganda has considered how it can increase its clearance rates. Uganda responded by indicating that a rate of 7.7 square metres per day per deminer is the actual rate of clearance to date and that this is due to thick vegetation, heavy contamination in previous battle areas and the fact that Uganda is in the rainy season until December 2009. Uganda further indicated that during the dry season the clearance rate would increase due to the lack of vegetation. Uganda also indicated that a time and motion study is underway to identify areas of improvement in deployment and individual drills, with these factors in mind, clearance rates should increase to 15 square meters per day per deminer during the dry season. The analysing group noted that Uganda expected its clearance rate to double during the dry season and that it was taking steps to improve performance, and, that this may lead to implementation much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested.

13. The request indicates that an additional 40 deminers will be added and that, by obtaining mechanical capacity, implementation could be accelerated. The 9MSP President wrote to Uganda to inquire about the prospect of acquiring such assets and about a technical assessment visit, referred to in the request that was to take place in August 2009 for mechanical operations. Furthermore, the 9MSP President inquired if the 40 additional men would still be required if a mechanical capacity is acquired. Uganda responded by indicating that the technical assessment took place in August 2009. The assessment concluded that, given the terrain and accessibility of Agoro, it is not suitable for mechanical assets. The assessment further concluded that a "Minewolf Bagger" machine could be used in Ngomoromo, that this would significantly increase the clearance rate, that a further detailed assessment will take place in October 2009 and that deployment of the machine will hopefully be carried out in January 2010. Uganda further indicated that the increase in the number of personnel will still be required as there will be a requirement for a follow-up manual clearance after the machine, which in turn will take a considerably longer time compared to the machine and that the plan is also to deploy the increased capacity to the Agoro suspected minefields to conduct technical survey and subsequent clearance.

14. The request indicates that Uganda Mine Action Standards (UMAS) first edition, December 2008, are applied in releasing areas and that these based on the UN's International Mine Action Standards. The request further indicates that land release criteria, risk and quality management applied, is documented in UMAS Chapter 10. The request further indicates that manual demining is currently the only method used for clearance of mines.

15. Given the importance of financial support for the execution of the plan put forward by Uganda, the 9MSP President wrote to Uganda indicating that it is understood that Uganda will provide US\$1,250,000 to fund implementation during the request period and that Uganda required US\$5,656,000 from other sources. The 9MSP President inquired if Uganda has a strategy for mobilizing resources and how it will go about obtaining the necessary funds. Uganda responded by indicating that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) remains committed to fund the mine action program, but that specific funding for the remaining clearance work for the period of 2010 to 2012 has not yet been budgeted by the UNDP. Uganda further

indicated that it expects to raise additional funds from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) for technical support functions for at least 2010. Uganda also indicated that it will continue supporting the demining capacity by covering for the salaries of the field personnel, including the 40 additional deminers, at least until at least August 2012.

16. The request indicates that land released to date is being used by former displaced persons for cultivation and resettlement. The request further indicates that with approximately 1.6 million internally displaced persons having returned, mine and UXO clearance and mine risk education activities have contributed to the reduction of victims. The request also indicates that the location of the remaining areas is economically viable for agriculture, particularly in the Agoro Mountains, where a range of both food crops and cash crops are grown. In addition, the request indicates that the completion of clearance will go a long way in improving food security and raising living standards. The analysing group noted that completion of Article 5 implementation during the requested extension period would have socio-economic benefits for Uganda.

17. The request includes other relevant information that may be of use to the States Parties in assessing and considering the request including a detailed set of tables and maps illustrating the status, location and size of the areas in question and the expected outputs.

18. The analysing group noted that Uganda found itself in a situation wherein less than two 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 analysing group further noted that Uganda itself had acknowledged that the late commencement of operations and establishment of a mine action programme contributed to this situation occurring. The analysing group also noted that once Uganda understood that it would require more time to complete implementation, it acted prudently by informing the 9MSP President, by asking that the President inform all States Parties of this matter and by promptly preparing and submitting a request for an extension.

19. The analysing group noted that, while the plan presented is workable, the fact that the request indicates that the clearance rate will double during Uganda's dry season and that the introduction of a mechanical capacity could accelerate implementation suggests that Uganda may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested. The analysing group added that doing so could benefit both the Convention and Uganda itself given the indication by Uganda of the socio-economic benefits that will flow from demining.

20. The analysing group noted that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Uganda could benefit from developing as soon as possible a resource mobilisation strategy that clarified the costs that Uganda's State budget would cover as part of the overall costs of implementation.

21. The analysing group noted that the detailed accounting of the remaining mined areas provided by Uganda would greatly assist both Uganda and all States Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. In this regard, the analysing group noted that

both could benefit if Uganda provided updates relative to this accounting of areas at meetings of the Standing Committees, at Meetings of the States Parties and at Review Conferences.
