

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

26 June 2014

- a. The Conference assessed the request submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo for an extension of the Democratic Republic of the Congo'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 2021.
- b. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of the United Nations International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS, in emphasising that evidence is required in order to define an area as either "suspected hazardous area" (i.e., an area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines) or "confirmed hazardous area" (i.e., an area known to contain anti-personnel mines). In this regard, the Conference noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo's adherence to IMAS guidance on this matter could provide greater clarity concerning the remaining challenge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- c. Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo had made great efforts to largely comply with the commitments it had made in 2011 to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge, a detailed annual work plan for survey and clearance leading to completion was still missing. The Conference further noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had committed to develop an operational plan by 1 January 2015. Given this commitment, the Conference requested that the Democratic Republic of the Congo submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, a clear and detailed survey and clearance plan leading to completion by 1 January 2021.
- d. Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from the Democratic Republic of the Congo informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following:
 - i. The number, location and size of remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey.
 - ii. Efforts and the results of efforts to mobilise funding to contribute to covering the costs of implementing the Democratic Republic of the Congo's national plans for survey and mine clearance,
 - iii. Efforts and the results of efforts undertaken to strengthen national capacity to implement the Democratic Republic of the Congo's national plan, and,
 - iv. Whether circumstances which had previously impeded the timely implementation of the Convention were continuing to affect the fulfilment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's obligations.
 - v. Additional efforts made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the results of these efforts to make use of the full range of practical methods to release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines, in accordance with the United Nations Mine Action Standards.