

Decisions on the request submitted by Eritrea 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 Meeting assessed the request submitted by Eritrea for an extension of Eritrea'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 February 2020.
- b. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Eritrea has largely sought to 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 and based on accurate and coherent data is still missing.
- c. In granting the request, the Conference noted that Eritrea was projecting that approximately six years would be needed from the date of submission of its request to resurvey to identify actual mined areas requiring clearance and report on the remaining areas known to contain mines by the end of the extension period. The Conference noted that five additional years beyond Eritrea's February 2015 deadline appeared to be a long period of time to meet this objective. In this regard the Meeting noted that it would be beneficial if Eritrea would submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to containing anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and a detailed budget. The Conference noted that clarity regarding which areas of what size and at what location remained be addressed in each administrative area would both serve as a foundation for a resource mobilisation strategy and greatly assist both Eritrea and all State Parties in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period.
- d. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of the United Nation's 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 suspected to contain anti-personnel mines). In this regard, the Conference noted that Eritrea's adherence to IMAS guidance on this matter could provide greater clarity concerning the remaining challenge in Eritrea.
- e. Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from the Eritrea 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 nontechnical survey,
 - ii. Efforts and the results of efforts to diversify funding sources and to reach out to other relevant parts of the government to contribute to covering the costs of implementing Eritrea's national plans for survey and mine clearance,
 - iii. Resources obtained relative to needs expressed in the request, including resources provided by the Government of Eritrea itself,
 - iv. Additional efforts made by Eritrea 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.