

Decisions on the request submitted by Yemen 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 Yemen for an extension of Yemen'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 March 2020.
- b. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Yemen had not complied with the principle commitment of it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by the end of 2014, it is positive that Yemen is planning to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge and carry out clearance to fulfill its obligations during the extension period.
- c. Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that Yemen was projecting that it would need approximately six years from the date of submission of its request to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. Given that survey activities are scheduled to be completed by September 2014, which should result in an accurate understanding of the remaining implementation challenge, the Conference requested that Yemen submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain 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 by which organizations, and a detailed budget.
- d. Also 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 suspected to contain anti-personnel mines). In this regard, the Conference noted that Yemen's adherence to IMAS guidance on this matter could provide greater clarity concerning the remaining challenge in Yemen. In this regard, the Conference noted that the commitment made by Yemen to undertake technical survey activities and to update its land release standards may result in implementation that proceeds much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested and in a more cost-effective manner. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Yemen in ensuring that the grave humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Yemen in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.
- e. Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Yemen informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following:
 - i. 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 Yemen's national plans for survey and mine clearance,
 - ii. Efforts and results of efforts to update, develop and apply national mine action standards that are in line with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards,
 - iii. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.
 - iv. Additional efforts made by Yemen 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.