

Meeting 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

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of request submitted under Article 5

Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Executive summary

Submitted by Yemen

1. The Government of Yemen is committed to the complete elimination of landmines and explosive remnants of war. The National Mine Action Committee (NMAC) was established in June 1998 to formulate policy, allocate resources, and develop a national mine-action strategy. Furthermore, the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) was established in January 1999 as the implementing body of the NMAC with the primary responsibility of coordinating all mine-action activities in the country. The aim of the current Strategic Mine Action Plan is to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel landmines.
2. During the past 60 years, Yemen has witnessed a number of conflicts (1962-1969; 1970-1983; 1994; 2004-2009; 2010-2012; and since 2014), each leaving behind a significant contamination by anti-personnel mines (APM) and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).
3. Since the coup against the legitimate government by Houthis militias and in 2015 while the conflicts were still ongoing in Yemen, the Government of Yemen with support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) established an emergency plan for clearing APMs and ERW in the main cities and villages.
4. The implementation of this plan started in April 2015 and has been going on until now. However, the coup against the legitimate government created a complex environment besides the ongoing conflict, which caused a widespread of APM contamination across the country.
5. Yemen is in the tragic position whereby it was making progress towards being APM free by the deadline of it is 2014's request. This was being made possible by a high level of government involvement and support through the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC) and the implementation of the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC). However, this has all changed, when in 2015 conflict expanded, adding stress to an already complex environment.
6. Yemen is facing challenges as a result of the coup by Houthis which caused a war that extended to a large number of Yemeni governorates and left a major humanitarian catastrophe in new spaces in cities, villages, roads, public facilities, water sources, and adjacent grazing areas. As part of the ongoing conflict in Yemen, anti-personnel mines, anti-



tank mines and other explosive ordnance continue to cause injuries and deaths of civilians, together with great economic and security difficulties.

7. From the challenges that are outlined in this extension request, it is obvious that Yemen will not meet its obligations as agreed within its third extension request lodged in 2019. Yemen is requesting a fourth extension request to continue its compliance to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for five years (1 March 2023 – 1 March 2028).

8. The startling feature highlighted in this extension request is the continuity of the 2019's request objectives. The current situations created a complex environment, which led to a continuation of the current emergency mine action activities to ensure a possible reduction of accidents/incidents among civilians. Currently, a national baseline survey (non-technical survey) is being implemented by YEMAC and other implemented partners such as Project MASAM, the HALO Trust and the Danish Refugee Council. There is limited knowledge on the exact number of casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. In this regard, non-technical, technical survey, explosive ordnance risk education, explosive ordnance spot task and clearance activities are occurring within the internationally recognised government.

9. Yemen's request aims to allow time to gather data and re-orient the mine action sector to meet current challenges. Originally, the mine action sector was not designed to face and reset the anti-personnel mine contamination baseline as a result of continuing the 2019's request objectives.

10. Based on the current situation, Yemen is requesting an extension for five years until March 2028 to continue the Yemen baseline survey (YBLS) plan and to determine as accurately as possible the extent and impact of the new anti-personnel mine contamination. Concurrent to this, the extension period will allow for the ongoing development of the mine action sector to work in a complex environment utilising the support of international organisations to meet old and new technical challenges, including those related to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

11. During the period of the extension request, Yemen will aim to expand the coordination of the Yemen mine action programme that began during the previous request and is vital in the current circumstances. Yemen knows that five years might not be sufficient for Yemen to meet its mine clearance commitments under Article 5. However, Yemen is hopeful that at the end of the proposed extension period, the security situation will improve permitting to expand the YBLS activities to gather the necessary and the most needed information and to submit a further if needed extension request based on facts. The period of the extension will also allow Yemen to carry out activities to strengthen its mine action programme to better respond to mine contamination including the following: a) Emergency Clearance, b) Survey, c) Capacity building activities, and d) Other related activities, including:

- i. Agreement on resource allocation to the survey against those needed for emergency land release.
- ii. Yemen's Mine Action Coordination Centre (YMACC)/YEMAC is expanding to allow partnerships with different stakeholders if needed.
- iii. Yemen is planning on bringing more donors to the scene.
- iv. The ongoing update to the YBLS prioritization matrix and the collection of the potential contamination info from different stakeholders.
- v. YEMAC is planning to open a new branch in Marib to continue the mine action activities in Al Bayda' Al Jawf and the western districts of Shabwah.
- vi. YMACC/YEMAC, if needed, is planning to keep developing new training plans to build new skills for the staff against the new challenges such as IEDs, sea mines, and so on also to retrain up skilled trainees and develop new training management plans (TMPs). International non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and Commercial companies can assist in the training.
- vii. Ongoing development and enhancing the Information Management System.

12. The needed budget for this request totals US dollars (USD) \$48,049,995 which will help Yemen to achieve its objectives and as a matter of compliance to Article 5 of the Convention.

13. Note: Yemen will submit a detailed plan on an annual basis or every two years via its transparency reports or to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.
