

**Decision on the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention**

**27 November 2024**

1. The Conference assessed the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2027.
2. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Guinea-Bissau had not complied with the principle commitments it had made in its initial extension request, as recorded in the decisions of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, to acquire a clear understanding of the extent of the challenge and project with greater certainty the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation, it is positive that Guinea-Bissau has made commendable progress and has strengthened its capacity and has initiated survey, clearance and mine risk education activities.
3. In granting the request, the Conference noted that Guinea-Bissau is applying best practices and, in particular, the identified “value of States Parties requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to developing a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information, and then submitting a second request containing plans based on a clearer understanding of the extent of the challenge and which project with greater certainty the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation” with a view of submitting a subsequent extension request by 31 March 2027.
4. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) including by providing reporting in a disaggregated manner by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas. The Conference further noted that greater clarity could be provided by reporting on the type of contamination addressed, in particular to confirm if the areas in question are contaminated by anti-personnel mines or other explosive remnants of war. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, information provided on progress made could be communicated with greater clarity and in an unequivocal manner by reporting in a manner consistent with IMAS, by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared.
5. In granting the request, the Conference noted that Guinea-Bissau would be in a position to complete implementation as soon as possible with increased national and international cooperation and Assistance. In this regard, the Conference noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau developing a resource mobilization plan.

6. In granting the request, the Conference, noting that the request did not contain a plan for mine risk education, noted that the Convention would benefit from Guinea-Bissau submitting to the States Parties by **30 April 2025**, a detailed, costed, and multi-year work plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities, that is sensitive to gender, age, disability and takes the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.
7. In granting the request the Conference noted that, given that Guinea-Bissau will undertake national non-technical survey to acquire a more detailed picture of its remaining challenges, the Convention would benefit from Guinea-Bissau submitting to the States Parties by **30 April 2026**, an updated detailed work plan for the remainder of the extension period containing, amongst other: a) an updated list of all identified mined areas in accordance with IMAS (i.e. disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination (e.g. anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, explosive remnants of war etc..)) b) projections of the areas where survey and clearance efforts will take place by which organisations and the methodologies to be employed c) plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities and methodologies to be employed d) how priorities have been established, and e) a detailed budget for implementation.
8. In granting the request the Conference noted that Guinea-Bissau's implementation is contingent upon the level and timeliness of national and international support, results of survey as well as the challenges faced by Guinea-Bissau. In this regard, the Conference noted that the States Parties would benefit from Guinea-Bissau reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
  - a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Guinea-Bissau 's work plan with progress in survey and clearance presented in a manner consistent with IMAS and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
  - b. the impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Guinea-Bissau's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation, including adjusted annual milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
  - c. Updates on Guinea-Bissau's efforts to approve its NMAS including updates in accordance with the latest IMAS;
  - d. the remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, by disaggregating by 'suspect hazardous areas', and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size including by

- disaggregating between the type of contamination to ensure increased clarity on the remaining challenges;
- e. efforts to develop and implement a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced, and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
  - f. efforts to establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation;
  - g. efforts to strengthen its national capacity to implement its obligations under the Convention and to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
  - h. efforts to ensure consideration for the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities as well as climate and environmental considerations in the implementation of the Convention;
  - i. the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension including information on victims disaggregated by gender and age;
  - j. resource mobilization efforts, external financing received, and resource made available by the Government of Guinea-Bissau to support implementation efforts.
9. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance, in addition to Guinea-Bissau reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at Intersessional Meetings, Meetings of the States Parties as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.