

## SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE

### DECISIONS ON REQUESTS SUBMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 5

1. Taking into account the analyses presented by the President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties of the requests submitted under article 5 of the Convention and the requests themselves, the Conference took the following decisions:

- (i) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Argentina for an extension of Argentina's deadline for 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 2020.
- (ii) In granting the request the Conference noted that, while Argentina had put forward a "schematic plan" for implementing article 5 in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control, Argentina itself has indicated that it "does not exercise territorial control over the land to be demined." The conference further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of article 5 during extension periods.
- (iii) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Cambodia for an extension of Cambodia's deadline for 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 2020.
- (iv) In granting the request the Conference noted that, while it may be unfortunate that after almost ten years since entry into force a State Party is unable to clarify what remains to be done, it is positive that such a State Party, as in the case of Cambodia, has sought the input of all relevant parties to develop a methodology to produce an estimate.
- (v) Also in granting the request, the Conference further noted Cambodia's commitment to carry out a "Baseline Survey" of all affected districts by the end of 2012 to produce greater clarity on the remaining implementation challenge, to regularly report on progress in carrying out the Baseline Survey, to report to the States Parties on the outcomes of the Baseline Survey, and to provide to the States Parties a revised work plan, schedule and budget. In addition, the Conference noted that all would benefit from progressively clearer information being used by Cambodia to develop and thereafter revise a single national clearance plan that takes into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators.
- (vi) Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that, while total projected resource requirements are realistic based upon recent experience, Cambodia has projected that an additional US\$ 125 million would be required to actually complete implementation of article 5 during the extension period. In addition, the conference noted that the Cambodian Mine Action Authority is working to ensure that the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) becomes an

accredited demining operator by the end of 2009 and to clarify RCAF clearance records to date.

- (vii) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Tajikistan for an extension of Tajikistan's deadline for 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 April 2020.
- (viii) In granting the request the Conference noted that, while no demining had taken place until more than four years after entry into force, since that time significant progress has been made, particularly by the release of land through resurvey. The Conference further noted that, while the plan presented is workable as concerns two of the three regions of Tajikistan in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced, differing views on the extent to which mechanical demining assets may be applicable suggest that Tajikistan may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested. In this context, the Conference noted that doing so could benefit Tajikistan in ensuring that the dire humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by it in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.
- (ix) Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that both Tajikistan and all States Parties would benefit if Tajikistan's national demining plan incorporated its intentions as concerns mined areas it has reported along the Tajik-Uzbek border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along the Tajik-Uzbek border.
- (x) Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that as Tajikistan projects that it will require slightly more funds on an annual basis than it has received in recent years, Tajikistan could benefit from increasing its frequency of contact with donors and clearly communicating the socio-economic development benefits that would flow from completing article 5 implementation.
- (xi) The Conference assessed the request submitted by Uganda for an extension of Uganda's deadline for 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 August 2012.
- (xii) In granting the request, the Conference noted that Uganda found itself in a situation wherein less than two months before its deadline Uganda was still unclear whether it would be able to complete implementation of article 5.1 of the Convention by its deadline. The Conference further noted that Uganda itself had acknowledged that the late commencement of operations and establishment of a mine action programme contributed to this situation occurring and that once Uganda understood that it would require more time to complete implementation, it acted prudently by informing the 9MSP President, by asking that the President inform all States Parties of this matter and by promptly preparing and submitting a request for an extension.

(xiii) Also in granting the request, the Conference noted that, while the plan presented by Uganda is workable, the indication in the request that the clearance rate will double during Uganda's dry season and that the introduction of a mechanical capacity could accelerate implementation suggests that Uganda may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested. In this context, the Conference noted that doing so could benefit both the Convention and Uganda itself given the indication by Uganda of the socio-economic benefits that will flow from demining.

2. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Conference noted that three of the States Parties that had submitted requests for extensions had highlighted the importance of obtaining resources in order to implement the plans contained in their requests. The Conference encouraged requesting States Parties, as relevant, to develop as soon as possible resource mobilisation strategies that take into account the need to reach out to a wide range of national and international funding sources. The Conference furthermore encouraged all States Parties in a position to do so to honour their commitments to fulfilling their obligations under article 6.4 of the Convention to provide assistance for mine clearance and related activities.

3. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Conference noted that the ongoing effort to implement article 5 during States Parties' requested extension periods has the potential of making a significant contribution to improving human safety and socio-economic conditions.

4. Also in the context of considering the submission of requests under article 5 of the Convention, the Conference noted that the accounting of the remaining mined areas contained in many extension requests would serve as a foundation for a resource mobilisation strategy and greatly assist both requesting States Parties and all others in assessing progress in implementation during the extension period. The Conference encouraged those requesting States Parties that have not yet done so to provide an accounting of annual milestones of progress to be achieved during extension periods. The Conference furthermore encouraged all States Parties whose requests had been considered by the Second Review Conference to provide updates relative to their accounting of remaining mined areas and / or annual benchmarks for progress at meetings of the Standing Committees, at Meetings of the States Parties and at Review Conferences.