

Decisions on the request submitted by Ecuador for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

21 December 2017

- i. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Ecuador for an extension of Ecuador's 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 2022.
- ii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Ecuador had not complied with the principle commitment it had made in its initial extension request, as recorded in the decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by 1 October 2017, it is positive that Ecuador has made continuous progress.
- iii. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Ecuador was projecting that it would need approximately five years to complete the survey of suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas and carry out the handover of cleared land. The Meeting, in recalling that the implementation of Ecuador's national demining plan may be affected by new information the level of resources obtained and the amount of internal capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Meeting requested that Ecuador submit by 30 April 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Meeting 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 a detailed updated budget.
- iv. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ecuador ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting further encouraged Ecuador to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Ecuador fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Ecuador in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Ecuador in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Ecuador continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.
- v. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that as the success of the plan is contingent upon the findings of survey efforts end environmental challenges faced by Ecuador, the Convention would benefit from Ecuador informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following:

- a. Progress made relative to the commitments and timelines contain in section 11 of its extension request and the results of these efforts;
 - b. Outcome of survey and clearance efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ecuador's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge and priorities for clearance;
 - c. Progress made relative to the commitment and timelines to carry out quality control of cleared areas to complete the process of delivery of land that has been cleared since 2000 to the local community and the results of these efforts;
 - d. Efforts undertaken to reach out to international entities to achieve Ecuador's desired outcome to conclude implementation well in advance of its requested extension deadline and the results of these effort.
- vi. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Ecuador 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, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.