

**Draft decisions on the request submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina for an extension of the
deadline for
completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention**

20 November 2020

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 1 March 2027.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Bosnia and Herzegovina had largely complied with the commitments it had made in 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina has an incomplete picture of the remaining challenges. The Meeting noted that a more accurate estimate of the amount of time and resources required to complete implementation of Article 5 will only be progressively acquired as survey activities continues.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size and reporting on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance). The Meeting further noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina ensuring as soon as possible that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied by all organizations for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, given the fact that survey efforts will provide increased clarity on the remaining contamination in Bosnia and Herzegovina and given the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina will review its Mine Action Strategy in 2023, the Convention would benefit from Bosnia and Herzegovina submitting to the States Parties updated detailed work plans on 30 April 2023 and on 30 April 2025 for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that these updated workplans should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget. The Meeting further noted the importance of the plan containing a detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities as well as provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressing information management challenges and ensuring that they maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. The Meeting further noted the importance of ensuring that the design and implementation of information management systems is nationally owned, sustainable and takes into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Bosnia and Herzegovina is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Meeting further noted that, as the plan is contingent on allocations from

State budgets and contingent upon stable international funding, the Convention would benefit from Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress in implementation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025;
 - b. progress of land release activities relative to the commitments given in Bosnia and Herzegovina's annual work plans, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards;
 - c. adjusted milestones including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
 - d. information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
 - e. progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
 - f. updates regarding national and international resource mobilisation efforts, including efforts in approaching potential donors and efforts in raising awareness of the lack of funding with state authorities, public enterprises and local authorities to fund clearance operations and the result of these efforts;
 - g. updates regarding the development and implementation of 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; and
 - h. update on efforts by Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention (e.g. establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders) and the results of these efforts.
7. The Meeting further noted the importance, in addition to Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the 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 its Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.