

DRAFT

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

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Mauritania 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 2026.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Mauritania had complied with the principal commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information and developed a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a four year and eleven month extension, Mauritania was projecting that it would need approximately five years from the date of submission of its request to build capacity of the National Humanitarian Demining Program for Development (PNHD), carry out survey efforts to further delimit the mined areas, ensure strengthening and maintenance of the national database, continue with its mine risk education and reduction efforts, mobilize national and international resources, carry out clearance of the remaining mined areas and establish a sustainable demining capacity.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted Mauritania's plan to review and approve its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and highlighted the importance of Mauritania ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Mauritania in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Mauritania in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Mauritania reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination 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).
5. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Mauritania ensuring that mine risk education and reduction efforts continue in affected communities and that plans are developed in a manner that ensures that activities are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, are sensitive to gender and age and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Meeting further welcomes Mauritania's efforts to ensure the development of sustainable national mine risk education and reduction capacities and to report on progress in this regard in a manner disaggregated by gender and age.
6. In noting that Mauritania has provided assumptions and risks to implementation including the fact that delays in securing funding will have an impact on the timeline presented for implementation and the need to ensure stable funding, the Meeting requested that Mauritania submit to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that the work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas will be addressed by which organisation during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget. The Meeting emphasized the request should contain an updated context specific mine risk education and reduction plan.

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7. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request and subsequently in response to the Meeting's questions is comprehensive and clear. The Meeting noted that the plan presented by Mauritania is ambitious and contingent upon stable international funding, partnerships with international stakeholders and a stable security situation. The Meeting, nonetheless, noted that the plan presented by Mauritania is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect progress in implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Mauritania reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:
- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Mauritania'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. Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Mauritania's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge, providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination;
 - c. Annual adjusted milestones, including the number of mined areas and amount of area to be addressed, and on how priorities have been established;
 - d. Updates on Mauritania's efforts to approve updates to its NMAS, in accordance with the latest IMAS;
 - e. 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;
 - f. 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;
 - g. Updates on efforts to maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation;
 - h. Updates on the cooperation with neighbouring countries to address border mined areas;
 - i. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Mauritania to support implementation, including to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and national capacities; and
 - j. Updates regarding the structure of Mauritania's mine action program, including existing and new organizational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.
8. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Mauritania 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 and Meetings of the States Parties, as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.