

## **Decision on the request submitted by Afghanistan 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 Afghanistan 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 2025.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the extraordinary circumstances faced by Afghanistan in presenting a detailed extension request containing a detailed work plan for implementation for the requested extension period. The Meeting further noted the importance of the request submitted by the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan in Geneva to ensure continued compliance by Afghanistan with the provisions of the Convention.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the socioeconomic impact of anti-personnel mines in Afghanistan and the importance of continued support by all stakeholders including the de facto authorities and the international community to the achievement of the humanitarian aims of the Convention. The Meeting further noted that progress in the implementation of Article 5 during the requested extension period had the potential of making a significant contribution to improving human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Afghanistan.
4. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that with the submission of a request for extension, Afghanistan aims to allow time for the situation in Afghanistan to develop and, subsequently, once conditions are favourable, for Afghanistan to submit by 31 March 2024 a request for extension containing a detailed work plan for implementation of its obligations under Article
5. The Meeting noted the importance of Afghanistan developing its request through an inclusive process, taking into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities, and including the following information, amongst other:
  - a. Detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for the extension period, containing information on progress made, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with the International Standards for Mine Action (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 based on new funding levels;
  - b. Detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account;
  - c. Plans for the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;

- d. The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension;
- e. Resources made available to support implementation efforts, including efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.