

Decisions on the request submitted by Eritrea 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 Eritrea 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 extended deadline until 31 December 2024.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Eritrea had not provided updated information on implementation of its Article 5 obligations since its last extension request was granted by the Fourth Review Conference. The Meeting also noted that Eritrea has not complied with the decision of the Fourth Review Conference on Eritrea's request for extension. The Meeting further noted that the fact that Eritrea has not submitted updated information on implementation since it submitted its request for extension in 2019 is a matter of concern. The Meeting noted that Eritrea reported on the circumstances which prevented Eritrea from acting on the decision of the Fourth Review Conference.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Eritrea had not acted in accordance with the agreed "process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extensions to Article 5 deadlines", which was established at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, preventing the Committee on Article 5 Implementation from carrying out its mandate to "prepare and submit to the States Parties in advance of Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences an analysis of each request for an Article 5 extended deadline".
4. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed Eritrea's commitment in Eritrea's request for extension to adhere to the process established by the States Parties and submit a request by 31 March 2024 for consideration by the Fifth Review Conference. The Meeting further noted that the submission of Eritrea's request by 31 March 2024 will permit a cooperative dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to take place, as envisaged by the extension request process.
5. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted that Eritrea would benefit from seeking assistance from the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in the preparation of its request, including by inviting the ISU for an in-country visit, in order to ensure that Eritrea benefits from support in the development of its extension request in line with lessons learned and decisions of the States Parties concerning requests for extension.
6. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Eritrea keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of implementation of its obligations under Article 5 at Intersessional Meetings and Meetings of the States Parties/Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.