

Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Submitted by Eritrea

16 November 2023

Since the date of submission of Eritrea's last request for extension in 2019, Eritrea has been working to address the process of restructuring the Eritrean Demining Authority (EDA), which impeded the implementation of Eritrea's commitments under Article 5, as highlighted in our 2019 request. The process of restructuring was launched to ensure the Authority is best placed to tackle the remaining challenge. As we indicated in 2019, the restructuring of the EDA presented obstacles to the submission of the request containing detailed data on the progress made to date, as well as the presentation of a work plan for the period beyond Eritrea's deadline of 31 December 2020.

Owing to some force measures, including a threat to national security and the COVID-19 Pandemic, the envisaged restructuring of the EDA couldn't be materialized in due time. At present, the restructuring process of the Authority and its operational mandate is being undertaken, and Eritrea is committed to the submission of a detailed request for extension in accordance with the process established by the States Parties. In this regard, Eritrea will work with the President of the Convention, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, and the ISU to submit a detailed request by 31 March 2024 for consideration by the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024. Thus, we request that the States Parties grant Eritrea an extension until 1 December 2024.