
Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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Eighteenth Meeting
Geneva, 16-20 November 2020

Final report

I. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction provides in Article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2, that the States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention. At the Fourth Review Conference (Oslo, 26-29 November 2019), the States Parties agreed to convene annually, until the Fifth Review Conference, a Meeting of the States Parties for up to five days at the end of November or beginning of December.¹

2. The Fourth Review Conference also decided to hold the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland, during the week of 16 November 2020, and to elect Ambassador Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sudan to the United Nations Office in Geneva, President of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties.² To prepare for the Eighteenth Meeting, in keeping with past practice, a provisional agenda was made available at the 30 June–2 July 2020 intersessional meetings of the Convention. To seek views on matters of substance and organization of work, an informal meeting was also convened on 18 September 2020 to which all States Parties, States not party and interested organizations were invited to participate.

II. Organization of the Meeting

3. The Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties was opened on 16 November 2020 by Ambassador Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed of Sudan, President of the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties. Due to the restrictions imposed in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties was held virtually. A high level ceremonial opening ceremony featured messages by the Minister of Defence of Sudan, Major General Yassin Ibrahim Yassin Abdel; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet Jeria; the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, delivered by Radha Day, Chief of service a.i., United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva branch; the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Gilles Carbonnier; the UNHCR's³ Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Gillian Triggs; the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), delivered by Stephen Goose, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch's Arms Division; the President of the Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for

¹ Final document, APLC/CONF/2019/5, paragraph 34 (i).

² Ibid., paragraph 35 (a).

³ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Barbara Haering; as well as the Colombian Mine Risk Education specialist, Luz Dary Landazury, on behalf of mine survivors. The Meeting also paid tribute to the late Minister of Defense of Sudan, Lieutenant General Garmal Eldin Omer.

4. At the first plenary session, on 16 November 2020, the Meeting adopted its agenda, as contained in document APLC/MSP.18/2020/1, and its programme of work, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/2, as orally amended.

5. Also at the same first plenary session, Austria, Canada, Chile, Iraq, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Eighteenth Meeting. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of Ambassador Félix Baumann, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament, as Secretary-General of the Meeting. The Meeting also took note of the appointment, by the United Nations Secretary-General, of Peter Kolarov, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva Branch, as Executive Secretary of the Meeting, and of the appointment, by the President, of Juan Carlos Ruan, Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), as the President's Executive Coordinator.

III. Participation in the Meeting

6. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules of procedure, the following States Parties participated in the Meeting: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

7. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules of procedure, the following States participated in the Meeting as observers: China, India, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic, and United States of America.

8. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Rules of procedure, the following international organizations and institutions, regional organizations, entities and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as observers: European Union (EU), Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Organization of American States (OAS), Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

9. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention and rule 1, paragraph 4, of the Rules of procedure, the following other organizations attended the Meeting as observers: Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) James Madison University, Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS), Handicap International/Humanity and Inclusion, iMMAP, International Trust Fund – Enhancing Human Security (ITF), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian People's Aid, and The HALO Trust.

10. A list of all delegations and delegates to the Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.18/2020/INF.1.

IV. Work of the Meeting

11. The Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties held ten plenary sessions between 16 and 20 November 2020. During the first and ninth plenary sessions, States Parties and observer delegations delivered statements of a general nature.

12. At the second and third plenary sessions, the States Parties that had submitted requests for extensions in accordance with Article 5, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, and Ukraine, presented their requests, the executive summaries of which are contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.2, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.1, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.10, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.5, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.3, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.3, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.4, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.6, and APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.14, respectively. In addition, Canada, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation presented analyses relating to requests for extensions of Article 5 deadline, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.7, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.9, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.16, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.13, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.11, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.12, APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.8, and APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.15, respectively.

13. During its fourth through eighth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the general status and operation of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Convention's goals and in the application of the Oslo Action Plan 2019 – 2024, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/6, APLC/MSP.18/2020/7, and APLC/MSP.18/2020/8.

14. At the fourth and fifth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance. In particular, Italy, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as Chile, as Committee's Gender Focal Point, reported on the Committee's work. Updates were provided by States Parties responsible for significant numbers of landmine survivors on their efforts to fulfil obligations and on the steps they have taken to implement the victim assistance actions of the Oslo Action Plan, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

15. At the fifth and sixth plenary sessions the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. In particular, Canada, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as Norway, as Committee's Gender Focal Point, reported on the Committee's work. Updates were provided by States Parties that are still in the process of clearing mined areas pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

16. At the seventh plenary session, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. In particular, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as Colombia, as Committee's Gender Focal Point, reported of the Committee's work. States Parties and other interested States and organisations provided views on cooperation and assistance and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee.

17. At the eight plenary session, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. In particular, the President, in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee, as well as Panama, as Committee's Gender Focal Point, reported on the Committees' work. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

18. Also in the context of the consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting discussed progress made and challenges that remain in destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

19. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed actions that had been undertaken since the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties in the pursuit of the universalization of the Convention. Updates were provided by States Parties, one State not party, as well as by interested organisations.

20. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed the transparency reporting responsibilities of the States Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention.

21. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU” and the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”⁴, which instructed the ISU to propose and present every year a work plan and detailed yearly budget for the ensuing year to the Coordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties for approval, the Meeting considered the “Implementation Support Unit 2021 Work Plan and Budget”, presented by the Director of the ISU and endorsed by the Coordinating Committee, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/4.

22. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, in recalling the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, which tasked the ISU to report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties and to submit an audited annual financial report for the previous year and a preliminary annual financial report for the present year to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to the Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting considered a 2020 “Interim report on the activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)” presented by the Director of the ISU, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/3, as well as the Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/5.

23. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting discussed the status of the assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention by States Parties and States not party participating in the meetings pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention and the budget deficit resulting from outstanding unpaid balances, as well as measures to ensure sustainable financing for the meetings.

24. Also in the context of the consideration of the the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting considered the report of the Sponsorship Coordinator, Australia, on the Sponsorship Programme. The Meeting noted the urgent need for more States Parties, which are in a position to do so, to contribute to this Programme to ensure broad participation in the 2021 intersessional meetings and the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting noted that continuing to give mine-affected States Parties a strong voice in the future direction of the Convention through the Sponsorship Programme is critical.

V. Decisions and Recommendations

25. The Meeting reaffirmed the determination of the States Parties to the Convention to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines and their commitment to strengthen their efforts in order to achieve their common goals of a mine-free world and the full and equal inclusion of survivors and victims. In keeping with the Oslo Action Plan, the Meeting condemned the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor.

26. The Meeting warmly welcomed the announcement by Chile of the completion of its Article 5 mine clearance obligations. The Meeting also noted with appreciation the voluntary declaration⁵ of completion submitted by Chile in line with recommendation #1 contained in the “Reflections and understandings on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations” by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.⁶

27. The Meeting also welcomed the announcement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the completion of its Article 5 mine clearance obligations and took note of its intention to submit a voluntary declaration of completion in 2021. The

⁴ APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.1

⁵ APLC/MSP.18/2020/MISC.1.

⁶ APLC/MSP.17/2018/1.

Argentine Republic made a statement in connection with the announcement by the United Kingdom which is contained in document APLC/MSP.18/2020/MISC.4.

28. In the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention and reviewing progress made and challenges that remain in the pursuit of the Conventions aims and in the application of the Oslo Action Plan 2019-2024, the Meeting warmly welcomed the Progress Report 2019-2020, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/6, APLC/MSP.18/2020/7, and APLC/MSP.18/2020/8, as an important means to support the application of the Oslo Action Plan by measuring progress made after the Fourth Review Conference and highlighting priority areas of work in the period between the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Meetings of the States Parties, as well as establishing a baseline value for all indicators of the Oslo Action Plan based on the data reported in the first year of implementation.

29. In the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting took note of the status of the Convention and the activities by the President to promote the universalization of the Convention and its norms. The Meeting took note that no additional accessions to the Convention have taken place since 2017. The Meeting called upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

30. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that have indicated having a responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors as well as the work of the Committee on Victim Assistance. The Meeting expressed particular concern about the number of victims of anti-personnel mines in different parts of the world.

31. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that have Article 5 obligations as well as the work of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation.

32. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention and taking into account the analyses presented by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation of the requests submitted under Article 5 of the Convention and the requests themselves, the Meeting took the following decisions:

A. Decision on the request submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina

33. 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, paragraph 1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2027.

34. 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.

35. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (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.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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.

39. 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.

B. Decision on the request submitted by Colombia

40. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Colombia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2025.

41. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Colombia had largely complied with the commitments it had made in 2010, Colombia 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.

42. The Meeting noted the importance of Colombia identifying as soon as possible the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establishing an updated evidence-based baseline of contamination in the remaining municipalities. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Colombia ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.

43. The Meeting noted the importance of Colombia continuing to reporting in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards 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).

44. In noting that Colombia provided implementation milestones for the period of 2020-2023 and Colombia’s intention to review its work plan in 2023, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension containing an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a detailed updated budget.

45. 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.

46. While the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Colombia is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation, the plan is contingent upon stable funding, security, retaining strong partnerships with international stakeholders and other matters creating an environment conducive for implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Colombia reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Colombia’s Humanitarian Demining Operational Plan 2020-2025 during the extension period, including on the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS;
- b. update on how additional clarity obtained may change Colombia’s assessment of the remaining implementation challenge;
- 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. progress made relative to the development and adoption of land release standards and other efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance,

including through an efficient process of allocation and re-allocation of municipalities and/or areas;

e. progress made in the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;

f. changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;

g. progress made to strengthen the inclusive nature of Colombia's Mine Action Programme through the establishment of a humanitarian demining platform, including the terms of reference, scope, membership and meeting frequency;

h. 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;

i. 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

j. resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Colombia to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

47. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Colombia reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting

C. Decision on the request submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo

48. In The Meeting assessed the request submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 July 2022.

49. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Third Review Conference, to complete implementation by its deadline in 2021, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made commendable progress. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo was projecting that it would need approximately eighteen months to complete the survey of suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas.

50. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, the Democratic Republic of the Congo could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy. In this context the Meeting noted the importance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo keeping the States Parties apprised of steps to fulfil its commitments and of providing further details on the costs associated with implementation of Article 5.

51. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Democratic Republic of the Congo is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Committee also noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is contingent upon security related access, financial allocation from State budgets, stable and uninterrupted international funding and an increasing the capacity of organizations involved in clearance activities. In this regard, the Committee noted

that the Convention would benefit from the Democratic Republic of the Congo reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Progress of land release relative to the commitments listed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's work plan, disaggregated in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and clearance through clearance);
- b. The impact of survey outcomes in Aru territory (Ituri Province) and Dungu territory (Haut-Uele Province) and annual milestones as given in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's work plan, including adjusted milestones to national work plan based on new evidence including on the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed annually, and on how priorities have been established;
- c. Progress on security-related access matters and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
- 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. Updates regarding detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities;
- f. Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including efforts in approaching potential donors and organisations in order to fund and assist in the implementation of clearance operations and the result of these efforts, including an expected timeline for recruitment, training and management of new or additional capacities; and
- g. Progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.

D. *Decision on the request submitted by Mauritania*

52. 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, paragraph 1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 January 2022.

53. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while it is unfortunate that Mauritania, having declared completion of its Article 5 obligations under the Convention, had discovered previously unknown mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, the Meeting welcomed Mauritania's adherence with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties on how to address such situations.

54. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed the fact that Mauritania is requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information. The Meeting further noted Mauritania's commitment to submit another request by 31 March 2021 containing plans based on a clearer understanding of the extent of the challenge and which project with greater certainty the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation.

55. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Mauritania 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 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. resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Mauritania to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

56. In granting the request, the Meeting further 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.

E. Decision on the request submitted by Niger

57. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Niger for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2024.

58. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while limited progress has been made in addressing the remaining areas since the last requesting period, Niger had taken measures to implement its obligations including through capacity building and strengthening, including through the training of deminers and the acquiring of equipment to carry out operations

59. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of Niger 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 Niger ensuring as soon as possible that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.

60. The Meeting noted the importance of Niger applying all provisions and obligations under the Convention to all types of anti-personnel mines, including anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5, and of Niger providing information disaggregated by type of mines. The Meeting further noted the importance of Niger providing information on the humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications of the request.

61. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the work plan submitted by Niger does not contain annual milestones. The Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger submitting to the States Parties an updated detailed work plan containing annual milestone by 30 April 2021 covering the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting also 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. The Meeting further noted the importance of the work plan containing information on current resources/capacity available, as well as additional resources/capacity required to achieve completion by the deadline as well as the methodologies and standards that will be applied.

62. The Meeting further noted that the Convention would benefit from Niger reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress made relative to the commitments contained in Niger's work plan during the extension period, providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS 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 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);
- b. adjusted milestones including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- c. progress on security-related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
- 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. 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. progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
- g. resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Niger to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and/or indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

63. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Niger reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

F. Decision on the request submitted by Nigeria

64. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by the Nigeria for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2021.

65. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while it is unfortunate that Nigeria, having declared completion of its Article 5 obligations under the Convention, had discovered newly mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, the Meeting welcomed Nigeria's adherence with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties on how to address such situations.

66. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed the fact that Nigeria is requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information. The Meeting further noted Nigeria's commitment a subsequent request by 31 March 2021.

67. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Nigeria 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. Information of the security and access challenges faced by Nigeria in carrying out survey and clearance operations;

- b. 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, to the extent possible, using terminology consistent with the IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the period covered by the request and by which organization, matched to a revised detailed budget based on new funding levels;
- c. 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;
- d. plans for the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
- e. the humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension; and
- f. resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Nigeria to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to establish the mine action centre and facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

68. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance, in addition to Nigeria 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.

G. Decision on the request submitted by Senegal

69. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Senegal for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2026.

70. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Senegal was unable to fulfil the commitments it had made, as recorded by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted that while it may be unfortunate that approximately twenty years since entry into force a State Party is unable to specify how much work remains and how it will be carried out, it is positive that Senegal intends to renew efforts to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and addressing remaining contamination during the extension period.

71. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as Senegal has made it clear that the provision of external support is necessary to fully implement the plan contained within its request, Senegal could inspire greater confidence on the part of those in a position to provide assistance by providing as soon as possible clarity regarding the remaining scope of the problem and engaging with partners on the ground to increase its survey and clearance capacity. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Senegal could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy.

72. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of Senegal 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 Senegal ensuring as soon as possible that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.

73. In recalling that the implementation of Senegal's national demining plan may be affected by the precarious security conditions and the need for collaboration of the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) for access to target areas, amongst other matters, and that following the first years of implementation circumstances may change, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Senegal submitting to the States Parties an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2023, for the remaining period covered by the extension.

74. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the updated workplan 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.

75. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Senegal could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy including strengthening its partnership with international organizations. In this context the Meeting noted the importance of the Senegal keeping the States Parties apprised of steps to fulfil its commitments and of providing further details on the costs associated with implementation of Article 5.

76. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the plan presented by Senegal is workable, lends itself to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Meeting further noted that the plan is based on allocations from State budgets and contingent upon stable international funding. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Senegal reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Progress in implementation of Senegal's work plan, including annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and clearance through clearance);
- b. The impact of annual progress on annual targets as given in Senegal's work plan, including updates to Senegal's national work plan, based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones, including on the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed annually, and on how priorities have been established;
- c. Progress on security related access matters and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
- 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. Updates regarding detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities;
- f. Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including efforts in approaching potential donors and organisations in order to fund and assist in the implementation of clearance operations and the result of these efforts, including an expected timeline for recruitment, training and management of new or additional capacities;
- g. Update on efforts by Senegal 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, and;

h. Progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.

77. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Senegal 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, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.

H. Decision on the request submitted by South Sudan

78. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by South Sudan for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 9 July 2026.

79. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that even with a consistent and sizeable effort having been undertaken by South Sudan going back even before entry into force of the Convention, South Sudan faces a significant remaining contamination challenge in order to fulfil its obligations under Article 5.

80. In granting the request, the Meeting also noted the importance of South Sudan 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 South Sudan ensuring as soon as possible that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.

81. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of South Sudan 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.

82. Also in granting the request, the Meeting noted, that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, South Sudan could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilization strategy. In this context the Meeting noted the importance of South Sudan keeping the States Parties apprised of steps to fulfill its commitments and of providing further details on the costs associated with implementation of Article 5.

83. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as implementation of South Sudan’s national demining plan may be affected by security-related access restrictions and the continued impact of COVID-19, and noting that the sector will require minor configurations to enable more efficient clearance of minefields, the Convention would benefit from South Sudan submitting to the States Parties periodic updated detailed work plans with the first of these being submitted by 30 April 2022, and the second by 30 April 2024, for the remaining period covered by the extension.

84. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the updated workplan 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 organization, 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.

85. In granting the request the meeting noted that the plan presented by South Sudan is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect progress in implementation. The Meeting also noted that, as the success of the plan is contingent on significant co-contribution from international funding, access to the remaining contaminated areas, the re-structuring of current clearance teams, and the recruitment of two additional clearance teams, the Convention would benefit from South Sudan reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in South Sudan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period, providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS 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 and in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
- b. The impact of annual progress on annual targets as given in South Sudan's work plan including adjusted milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- c. Progress on security-related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
- d. Efforts made to reconfigure their personnel to form larger teams and the results of these efforts;
- 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. Updates regarding the structure of South Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion; and
- g. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received, and resources made available by the government of South Sudan to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to strengthen the capacity of the National Mine Action Authority and facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities.

86. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to South Sudan 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, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

I. Decision on the request submitted by Ukraine

87. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Ukraine for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 December 2023.

88. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that - as in its request for extension of its 1 June 2016 deadline - Ukraine has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that it does not have effective control over the areas in question. The Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine providing information on changes to the status of the control of the mined areas, as part of the Article 5 Implementation process.

89. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine reporting in a manner consistent with International Mine Action Standards 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 Ukraine ensuring as soon as possible that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.

90. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Ukraine ensuring that it applies all provisions and obligations under the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (e.g. trip-wire grenades) along with all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregating by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.

91. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, given that the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence together with interested national authorities prepares the “Activity Plan on Humanitarian Demining of Liberated Territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions for 2020”, the States Parties would benefit from Ukraine ensuring that it updates its national work plan based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in its Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established. The Meeting further noted that, as the request did not contain a budget for implementation, Ukraine would benefit from including in its annual updates information on costs for implementation.

92. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Ukraine is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the progress in implementation. The Meeting further noted that the plan’s success is contingent on access to the remaining contaminated areas, the need for stable national funding and the mobilization of international financial and technical resources, engagement with international stakeholders and the creation of an environment conducive for organizations involved in mine action activities, including the establishment of a national mine action Centre. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ukraine reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress and results of land release activities relative to the commitments made in Ukraine’s annual work plan, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS by 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. Report 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) and how additional clarity obtained may alter Ukraine’s assessment of the remaining implementation challenge;
- b. annual updated work plan based on new evidence containing adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually, how priorities have been established and costs for implementation;
- c. changes to the status of the control of mined areas and how these changes positively or negatively affect survey and clearance of mined areas;
- d. updated information on the development and adoption of National Mine Action Legislation and the establishment of a national mine action centre;
- e. updates on the steps taken by Ukraine to ensure the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes;
- f. 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

g. updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available from Ukraine's state budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts.

93. The Meeting further noted the importance, in addition to Ukraine 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, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

94. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting expressed concern that Eritrea has not presented an Article 5 extension request and will find itself in a situation of non-compliance following expiration of its 31 December 2020 Article 5 deadline. The Meeting called on Eritrea to submit as soon as possible a request for extension in accordance with the process established by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting further encouraged Eritrea to engage with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the Implementation Support Unit on this matter as soon as possible.

95. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting recalled the establishment by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties of a process for extension requests submitted under Article 5⁷ and the importance of adhering to this process. The Meeting also recalled the endorsement at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties of the recommendations contained in the "Reflections on the Extension Request Process" paper⁸ and encouraged States Parties, as appropriate, to continue implementing these recommendations. In particular, the Meeting recalled that late submission of requests impede the efforts of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation by limiting opportunities for interaction between the Committee and requesting States Parties and resulting in some analyses being completed much later than they normally should have been, thus affecting the ability of all States Parties to take informed decisions on these requests. Against this background the Meeting reiterated the importance of timely submission of the extension requests, in accordance with the established process.

96. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the work of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance as well as the updates on cooperation and assistance provided by States Parties and organisations.

97. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the work of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. The Meeting took note of the conclusion of the Committee that following cooperative dialogue with Ukraine and civil society concerning allegations on the use of mines in Ukraine, there was no reason to maintain this case in the agenda of the Committee.

98. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the update on the progress provided by Greece and Ukraine on the destruction of their stockpiled anti-personnel mines. The Meeting appealed to the States Parties which are in non-compliance with their Article 4 obligations to intensify efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.

99. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting emphasised the importance of all States Parties reporting updated information annually in accordance with Article 7. The Meeting encouraged States Parties to make use of the tools developed to facilitate reporting, including the Guide to Reporting, as well as to seek the support of the Implementation Support Unit in the preparation of their reports.

100. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, recalling the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU" and the relevant decision by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, the Meeting approved the "Implementation Support Unit Work

⁷ APLC/MSP.7/2006/5.

⁸ APLC/MSP.12/2012/4.

Plan and Budget 2021”, as endorsed by the Coordinating Committee and as contained in document APLC/MSP.18/2020/3. In the context of the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, the Meeting also approved the 2020 “Interim report on the activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)”, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/3, as well as the Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/5.

101. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decision on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting approved the apportion of the 2019 ISU Trust Fund surplus in a manner that ensures that (a) the financial security buffer contains an amount equivalent to one year of expenditures related to core support as provided for in the ISU yearly budget and that (b) any additional surplus be allocated to implement the ISU Work Plan.

102. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ relevant decisions on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting commended the Sudanese presidency for organising, on 25 February 2020, a successful pledging conference for the implementation of the Convention, which featured the participation of the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sudan, Omer Gamareldin Ismail.

103. In the context of considering the financial status of assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties, the Meeting noted the continuing precarious financial situation due to late payment and arrears of assessed contributions and underlined the importance to ensure full compliance with Article 14 obligations. The Meeting called upon the States Parties and States not party participating in the Meetings of the States Parties to address issues arising from outstanding dues. The Meeting requested the States Parties and States not party participating in the meetings of the States Parties to proceed promptly with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment invoices have been received.

104. Also in the context of considering the financial status of assessed contributions, the Meeting welcomed the President’s efforts to address matters related to financial predictability and sustainability of United Nations assessed contributions. The Meeting decided to continue the dialogue on this matter, to closely monitor the financial situation of the Convention, and to address this issue at the next Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting requested the United Nations and the Implementation Support Unit to continue their efforts in raising awareness and ensuring transparency on the status of contributions on a monthly basis by making information available and sending periodic reminders.

105. The Meeting reiterated the fundamental role of multilingualism in facilitating inclusive participation in the work of the Convention and decided that official documents of the formal meetings of the Convention shall be translated in all languages of the Convention.

106. The Meeting welcomed the interest expressed by States Parties to serve as new members of Committees and decided on the following membership of the Convention’s Committees:

(a) Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Norway and Zambia (until the end of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Belgium and Sri Lanka (until the end of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties);

(b) Committee on Victim Assistance: Sweden and Thailand (until the end of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Algeria and Ecuador (until the end of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties);

(c) Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: Colombia and Germany (until the end of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Japan and Sudan (until the end of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties);

(d) Committee on Cooperative Compliance: Panama and Poland (until the end of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties) and Chile and Spain (until the end of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties).

107. The Meeting agreed to set the dates of the intersessional meetings for 22 to 24 June 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.

108. The Meeting agreed to hold the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, the week of 29 November – 3 December 2021 and the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland⁹, the week of 28 November 2022, and adopted its estimated costs, as contained in APLC/MSP.18/2020/9. The Meeting noted that no interest had been expressed so far for the Presidency of the Twentieth Meeting.

VI. Documentation

109. A list of documents of the Eighteenth Meeting is contained in the annex to this report.

VII. Adoption of the final report

110. At its final plenary session, on 20 November 2020, the Meeting adopted its final report.

⁹ Not precluding any future interest expressed by a State party to preside over and host the Meeting

Annex

List of Documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.18/2020/1	Provisional agenda. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.18/2020/2	Provisional programme of work. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.18/2020/3	Interim Report. Activities, Functioning and Finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.18/2020/4	Implementation Support Unit 2021 Budget and Work Plan. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.18/2020/5	Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2019
APLC/MSP.18/2020/6	Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Draft Progress Report 2019-2020. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.18/2020/7	Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Priorities for Implementation 2020-2021. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.18/2020/8	Oslo Action Plan: status of implementation. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.18/2020/9	Estimated costs for the Twentieth Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction
APLC/MSP.18/2020/10	Final report
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.1	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Colombia
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.2	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.3	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Niger
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.4	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Senegal
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.5	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Mauritania

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.6	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by South Sudan
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.7	Analysis of 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. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.8	Analysis of the request submitted by South Sudan for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.9	Analysis of the request submitted by Colombia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.10	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Democratic Republic of the Congo
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.11	Analysis of the request submitted by Niger for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.12	Analysis of the request submitted by Senegal for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.13	Analysis of 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. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.14	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Ukraine
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.15	Analysis of the request submitted by Ukraine for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.16	Analysis of the request submitted by Democratic Republic of the Congo for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.18/2020/WP.17	Request for extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Nigeria
APLC/MSP.18/2020/MISC.1 Spanish only	Informe de finalización de la destrucción de minas antipersonal en áreas minadas de acuerdo con el Artículo 5, Párrafo 1 y 3, de la Convención sobre la prohibición del Empleo, Almacenamiento, Producción y Transferencia de Minas Antipersonal y sobre su Destrucción. Presentado por Chile
APLC/MSP.18/2020/MISC.2 English/French/Spanish only	Provisional List of Participants
APLC/MSP.18/2020/MISC.3 English only	Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
APLC/MSP.18/2020/MISC.4 Español/ingles unicamente	Situación particular de las Islas Malvinas. Presentado por Argentina
APLC/MSP.18/2020/MISC.5 English only	Explanation of Position on the “State of Palestine”. Submitted by Australia, the Czech Republic, Germany and the Netherlands
APLC/MSP.18/2020/CRP.1	Draft Final report
APLC/MSP.18/2020/INF/1 English/French/Spanish only	List of Participants
