

# 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

6 December 2022

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Twentieth Meeting  
Geneva, 21-25 November 2022

## 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, Norway, 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.<sup>1</sup>

2. The Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (The Hague, the Netherlands, 15-19 November 2021) agreed to hold the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland, the week of 21-25 November 2022, and to elect Ambassador Alicia Victoria Arango Olmos, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties.<sup>2</sup> Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ambassador Olmos resigned as the President of the Twentieth Meeting, as communicated on 20 May 2022, and, through silent procedure, the States Parties agreed on the designation of Ambassador Alvaro Enrique Ayala Meléndez, Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia, Chargé d'affaires a.i., as the President of the Meeting, as of June 1, 2022.

3. To prepare for the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, in keeping with past practice, a provisional agenda and a provisional programme of work were made available at the 20-22 June 2022 Intersessional Meetings of the Convention. To seek views on matters of substance and organization of work, an informal meeting was also convened on 19 September 2022 to which all States Parties, States not party and interested organizations were invited to participate.

### II. Organization of the Meeting

4. The Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties was opened on 21 November 2022 by Ambassador Alvaro Enrique Ayala Meléndez of Colombia, President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties. A high level ceremonial opening ceremony featured a musical performance by Ana María Villamizar, soprano (Colombia), and messages by the Convention's Special Envoy, HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad Bin Zeid Al Hussein of Jordan; the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Under-Secretary-General Izumi Nakamitsu; the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Dr. Gilles Carbonnier; Mamadu Ba Cante, on behalf of his 12-year old son and mine survivor Mamadu Djau; the Ambassador of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)

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

<sup>2</sup> Final document, APLC/MSP.19/2021/15, paragraph 105.



and Director of the Uganda Landmine Survivors Association, Margaret Arach Orech, on behalf of ICBL; the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, Daniel Craig; the President of the Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Barbara Haering; and the High Commissioner for Peace of Colombia, Danilo Rueda.

5. A thematic panel entitled “Deciphering numbers: Status of Implementation” was held on 21 November 2022 as part of the opening of the Meeting with the participation of the President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties; the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Belgium; the Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance, Algeria; the Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, Japan; the Chair of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, Colombia, on behalf of the President; and the representative of the Committees’ Gender Focal Points, France.

6. At the first plenary session, on 21 November 2022, the Meeting adopted its agenda, as contained in document APLC/MSP.20/2022/1, and its programme of work, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/2.

7. Also at the first plenary session, Algeria, Belgium, Chile, Ecuador, Japan, Spain, Sri Lanka and Sudan were elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the nomination of Ambassador Félix Baumann, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organisations at Geneva and 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**

8. 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, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte D’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Madagascar, Malta, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Qatar, San Marino, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

9. 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: Armenia, Azerbaijan, India, Israel, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Morocco, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and United States of America.

10. 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), GICHD, ICBL, ICRC, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, ISU of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Organization of American States (OAS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

11. 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), International Trust Fund – Enhancing Human Security (ITF), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), and The HALO Trust.

12. A list of all delegations and delegates to the Meeting is contained in document APLC/MSP.20/2022/INF.1.

#### **IV. Work of the Meeting**

13. The Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties held ten plenary sessions between 21 and 25 November 2022. During the first and the ninth plenary sessions, States Parties and observer delegations delivered statements of a general nature.

14. At the second and the third plenary sessions, the States Parties that submitted requests for extensions in accordance with Article 5, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Convention, Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, and Yemen, presented their requests, the executive summaries of which are contained in documents APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.1, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.5, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.4, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.2, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.6, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.3, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.7, and APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.8, respectively. In addition, Belgium, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation presented observation and analyses relating to requests for extensions of Article 5 deadlines, as contained in documents APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.14, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.15, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.9, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.10, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.12, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.11, APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.13 and APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.16, respectively. The positions of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Argentina in connection with the request submitted by Argentina are contained in documents APLC/MSP.20/2022/MISC.3 and APLC/MSP.20/2022/MISC.4, respectively. During the second and eight plenary sessions, the States Parties considered the continuing status of non-compliance of Eritrea and expressed deep concern with this situation.

15. During its third 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.20/2022/12/Rev.1.

16. At the third and fourth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance. In particular, Algeria, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, introduced the report of the Committee on its “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023”, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/8. Updates on progress and challenges were provided by States Parties implementing victim assistance commitments 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. Uganda, as incoming Chair, presented the priorities of the Committee for 2023.

17. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Victim Assistance the Meeting noted the persistent challenges in the implementation of victim assistance including those related to the lack of financial means and highlighted the importance of continued support to victim assistance and making continued progress in integrating victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, and to health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction in support of the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

18. At the fifth and sixth plenary sessions, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. In particular, Belgium, in its capacity as the Chair

of the Committee, introduced the report of the Committee on its “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023”, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/7. 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.

19. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, the Meeting noted the persistent challenges associated with implementation including the need to maintain and increase financial resources for implementation, the need to ensure the continued improvement of applied methodologies and the need to ensure that States Parties gain clarity on remaining contamination and address this contamination as soon as possible in line with the States Parties ambitions of progressing in implementation, to the fullest extent possible, by 2025. The Meeting further noted the challenges posed by the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature. The Meeting noted the importance of States Parties continuing to implement and report on their implementation of the Oslo Action Plan. France, as incoming Chair, presented the priorities of the Committee for 2023.

20. The meeting took note of document APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.17 titled “Reflections on the implementation of mine clearance obligations of States Parties and the Article 5 Extension Process”, submitted by Belgium, on the basis of its experience as Chair of the Committee on the Article 5 Implementation.

21. At the sixth and seventh plenary session, the Meeting considered the activities of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. In particular, Japan, in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee, introduced the report of the Committee on its “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023”, as contained in APLC/MSP.22/2022/9. States Parties and other interested States and organisations provided views on cooperation and assistance and the conclusions and priorities of the Committee.

22. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, the Meeting noted the importance of States Parties making full use of the tools available to the States Parties, such as the Individualized Approach, to share challenges and requirements for support. The Meeting further noted the importance of the application of the relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan, such as the establishment of national mine action platforms, to foster cooperation and assistance and support the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention by States Parties as soon as possible. The Meeting noted the importance of States Parties strengthening cooperation on implementation in line with the Oslo Action Plan. Thailand, as incoming Chair, presented the priorities of the Committee for 2023.

23. At the seventh 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, presented the report on the Committee’s “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2021-2022”, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/11. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, as well as by other interested States and organisations.

24. Also in the context of the consideration of the activities of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, the Meeting noted the importance of continued transparency in the implementation of the Convention and noted the importance of the obligation to submit transparency reports in line with Article 7 of the Convention highlighting progress in implementation of their Convention obligations in line with the Oslo Action Plan. The Meeting noted the critical nature of this aspect of the Convention to ensure the success of collective implementation efforts. The Meeting further noted the importance of relevant States Parties ensuring the establishment of national implementation measures in accordance with Article 9.

25. Also in the context of the consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting discussed progress made and persistent challenges that remain in destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines. In particular, the President reported on the status of implementation of Article 4 obligations. Updates were provided by States Parties concerned, Greece and Ukraine, as well as by interested organisations.

26. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the States Parties recognized the importance of States Parties which are in non-compliance

with Article 4 of the Convention addressing challenges in implementation, presenting a time-bound plan for completion, and proceeding with implementation as soon as possible in a transparent manner, regularly informing States Parties on progress made and remaining challenges in accordance with the Oslo Action Plan.

27. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting addressed actions that have been undertaken since the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in the pursuit of the universalization of the Convention. In particular, the President reported on activities aimed at the universalization of the Convention. Updates were provided by States Parties, States not party, as well as by interested organisations.

28. Also in the context of its consideration of the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting noted that universalization is a responsibility of all States Parties and highlighted the importance of sustainable actions on universalization. The Meeting further noted the importance of putting forth concerted efforts to ensure an increase in the number of the States Parties in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference and strengthening the norms of the Convention.

29. 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. The Meeting noted that the reporting rate remains low and reiterated the importance of States Parties with no obligations under the Convention making use of the simplified tools created by the States Parties to facilitate reporting. The Meeting noted the importance of the States Parties adhering to Article 7 of the Convention and the relevant commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.

30. 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”<sup>3</sup>, 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 2023 Budget and Work Plan”, presented by the Director of the ISU and endorsed by the Coordinating Committee, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/4.

31. 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 2022 “Activities, Functioning and Finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Interim Report” presented by the Director of the ISU, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/5, as well as the “Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2021”, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/3. As mandated by the Fourth Review Conference, the President presented the “Mid-Term Review. Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024”, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/6.

32. Also in the context of its consideration of 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 noted that (a) the financial security buffer contained an amount equivalent to one year of expenditures related to core support as provided for in the ISU yearly budget and that (b) no additional surplus was expected to be allocated to implement the ISU Work Plan in 2023.

33. 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

<sup>3</sup> APLC/MSP.14/2015/L.1.

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.

34. 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 2023 Intersessional Meetings and the Twenty-first 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.

35. At the ninth plenary session, the Meeting considered the status of assessed contributions received pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention. In particular, the President presented a proposal on financial matters that would allow the United Nations to close the accounts for each financial period within 12 months of the conclusion of that financial period, as requested by the Fourth Review Conference<sup>4</sup>, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/L.1.

## **V. Decisions and Recommendations**

36. 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, including anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, 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 anywhere, at any time, and by any actor, including by armed non-State actors.

37. 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 “Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Progress Report 2021-2022”, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/13, as an important means to support the application of the Oslo Action Plan by measuring progress made since the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties and highlighting priority areas of work in the period between the Twentieth and Twenty-first Meetings of the States Parties, as well as providing an updated baseline value for all indicators of the Oslo Action Plan based on the data reported in the third year of implementation.

38. In the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting took note of 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.

39. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the updates by States Parties that report on the implementation of Victim Assistance commitments as well as the “Activities and Priorities for Implementation for 2022-2023” by the Committee on Victim Assistance, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/8. The Meeting expressed particular concern about continued casualties caused by anti-personnel mines and the importance of working to address the needs and rights of mine victims in all parts of the world.

40. 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 “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023” by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/7.

41. 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

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<sup>4</sup> APLC/CONF/2019/5, paragraph 42 (b) (ii).

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 Afghanistan**

42. 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.

43. 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.

44. 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.

45. 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.

46. 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.

#### **B. Decision on the request submitted by Argentina**

47. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Argentina for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2026.

48. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, as in past request for extension of Article 5 deadlines submitted by Argentina, Argentina has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes the ability of Argentina to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that Argentina has indicated that it “does not exercise territorial control over the land to be demined.”

49. The Meeting noted the importance of Argentina seeking a cooperative solution to the current impasse. The Meeting highlighted the importance of Argentina, during the period leading to the requested extended deadline, continuing to evaluate the situation and make an assessment as to whether matters have evolved so that Argentina is, or may in the future be, in a position to declare completion of its obligations under Article 5. The Committee noted the importance of Argentina keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of efforts in this regard and other pertinent developments regarding its implementation of Article 5.

50. The Meeting noted that, given the circumstances highlighted by Argentina which prevent it from declaring completion and taking into account the information contained in the document<sup>5</sup> mentioned in the Final Report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (APLC/MSP.19/2021/15, paragraph 37), Argentina may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested.

51. The Meeting further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas, when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.

52. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland disassociated<sup>6</sup> itself from this decision and submitted a position as contained in document APLC/MSP.20/2022/MISC.3 in connection with the request submitted by Argentina.

### **C. Decision on the request submitted by Ecuador**

53. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Ecuador 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 2025.

54. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Ecuador had not complied with the principle commitments it had made in its initial extension request, as recorded in the decisions of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete the survey of suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas and carry out the handover of cleared land by 31 December 2022, it is positive that Ecuador has made continuous progress. The Meeting further noted the impact highlighted by Ecuador of the global pandemic which disrupted humanitarian demining operation in 2020 and 2021.

55. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Ecuador was projecting that it would need approximately three years to complete the survey of suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas and carry out the handover of cleared land. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Ecuador 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. The Meeting further encouraged Ecuador to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Ecuador fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Ecuador in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Ecuador in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Ecuador continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing

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<sup>5</sup> APLC/MSP.19/2021/MISC.6.

<sup>6</sup> Recalling the announcement made during the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties, the United Kingdom noted that there is no known or suspected contamination on the Islands and that in their view no Article 5 obligation can exist in the absence of mined areas.



information disaggregated by cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared.

56. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of the Ecuador carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

57. In granting the request the Meeting noted that as the implementation of Ecuador's national demining plan will be affected by new information from ongoing clearance and survey operations as well as the risk factors identified in the request, the Convention would benefit from Ecuador submitting to the States Parties by 30 April 2024, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that this work plan should contain information on progress made, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and a revised detailed budget.

58. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Ecuador is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the States Parties would benefit from Ecuador reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Ecuador's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land released methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance);

(b) The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and update on how additional clarity obtained may change Ecuador's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;

(c) The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes;

(d) Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;

(e) Progress, methodologies employed, annual milestones and anticipated costs for quality control operations and progress in the handover of previously released land for the productive use of mine affected communities;

(f) Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

(g) Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Ecuador to support implementation efforts; and

(h) Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

59. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Ecuador 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.

#### **D. Decision on the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau**

60. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau 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 2024.

61. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Guinea-Bissau had not complied with the principle commitments it had made in its initial extension request, as recorded in the decisions of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to acquire a clear understanding of the extent of the challenge and project with greater certainty the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation, it is positive that Guinea-Bissau has made commendable progress and has committed to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge. The Meeting further noted that it is positive that Guinea-Bissau is requesting only the period of time necessary to strengthen its capacity and gather and assess data on progress made and remaining contamination and other relevant information with a view of submitting a subsequent extension request by 31 March 2024.

62. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Guinea-Bissau was projecting that it would need approximately two years to build its national capacity to complete the survey of suspected hazardous areas, resume mine risk education and reduction activities and initiate clearance activities. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau 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. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Guinea-Bissau in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Guinea-Bissau in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.

63. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau 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).

64. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

65. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the implementation of Guinea-Bissau’s national demining plan will be affected by the level of national and international funding, new information from survey operations as well as the risk factors identified in the request and noted that the States Parties would benefit from Guinea-Bissau reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Guinea-Bissau’s work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts 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 cleared through clearance);

(b) The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Guinea-Bissau’s assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;

(c) The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes;

(d) Information on progress in building the capacity of the National Mine Action Coordination Centre of Guinea Bissau (CAAMI), including the establishment of an information management system, the development of national mine action standards in accordance with IMAS, and preparations for survey and clearance activities;

(e) Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of mined areas and amount of area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;

(f) Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

(g) Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Guinea-Bissau to support implementation efforts; and

(h) Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

66. In granting the request the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Guinea-Bissau 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.

#### **E. Decision on the request submitted by Serbia**

67. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Serbia 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 2024.

68. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Serbia had not been able to complete the implementation of the principal commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by its 1 March 2023 deadline, Serbia has made commendable progress. The Meeting further noted Serbia's continued commitment to the implementation of Article 5.

69. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Serbia was projecting that it would need approximately twenty-one month to complete non-technical survey and gather the necessary information to develop a meaningful forward-looking request for extension by 31 March 2024, including a work plan to project with greater certainty the amount of area, the size of each area, matched with a detailed budget and the amount of time necessary for Serbia to complete its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention.

70. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Serbia 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. The Meeting further encouraged Serbia to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Serbia fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Serbia in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Serbia in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.

71. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Serbia 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).

72. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Serbia carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

73. In granting the request the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Serbia is workable, lends itself well 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 increased international funding. In this regard, the Meeting

noted that the Convention would benefit from Serbia reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Serbia's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts 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 cleared through clearance);

(b) The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and updates on how additional clarity obtained may change Serbia's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;

(c) The remaining challenge reported in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes;

(d) Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;

(e) Progress in developing relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention during the extension request period;

(f) Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

(g) Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Serbia to support implementation efforts; and

(h) Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

74. In addition, the Committee noted the importance of Serbia reporting as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 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.

## **F. Decision on the request submitted by Sudan**

75. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Sudan 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 April 2027.

76. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Sudan had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made to complete implementation by its deadline of 1 April 2023 as recorded in the decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, Sudan has made commendable progress. The Meeting further noted Sudan's continued commitment to the implementation of Article 5.

77. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Sudan was projecting that it would need approximately four years to complete the survey of suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas in accessible areas. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Sudan 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. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Sudan in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Sudan in its request are addressed as quickly as possible. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Sudan 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).

78. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of the Sudan carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

79. In granting the request the Meeting noted the important of Sudan ensuring the provision for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.

80. In granting the request the Meeting noted that Sudan's implementation is contingent on access to the remaining contaminated areas that are dependent upon improved security and progress of political dialogue, the need for stable national funding and the mobilization of international resources, engagement with international stakeholders and the creation of an environment conducive for organizations involved in mine action activities. In granting the request the Meeting further noted that the Convention would benefit from Sudan reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Sudan's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts 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 cleared through clearance) and disaggregated by type of contamination addressed;

(b) The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Sudan's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;

(c) The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes as well as by type of contamination;

(d) Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;

(e) Progress in the development and approval of a costed and time-bound national strategy through inclusive consultations with women, girls boys and men and further updates on the timeline and process for the approval of its national strategy in this regard;

(f) Annual updates on changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively impact implementation;

(g) Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

(h) Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Sudan to support implementation efforts;

(i) Updates regarding the structure of Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion; and

(j) Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

81. The Meeting noted the importance, in addition to 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.

## **G. Decision on the request submitted by Thailand**

82. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Thailand 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.

83. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while Thailand had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made, as recorded in the decisions of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, to complete implementation by its deadline of 31 October 2023, Thailand has made commendable progress. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that Thailand was projecting that it would need approximately three years to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas.

84. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Thailand 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. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Thailand in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Thailand in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.

85. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Thailand 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).

86. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Thailand carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

87. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the important of Thailand ensuring the provision for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion as soon as possible.

88. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, as the national demining plan may be affected by outcomes from the process of border coordination activities and the implementation of the multi-level framework in support of joint demining activities, as well as potential reduction in funding, the Convention would benefit from Thailand submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2024, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, and a revised detailed budget.

89. In granting the request the Meeting noted that the plan presented by Thailand is workable and lends itself well to be monitored and states clearly those factors that could affect progress in implementation. The Meeting further noted that as the plan is contingent upon the result of negotiations on access to areas to be demarcated the Convention would benefit from Thailand reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Thailand’s work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts 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 cleared through clearance);

(b) The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and update on how additional clarity obtained may change Thailand's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;

(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) Updates on the proposed "Pilot Project on Demining Cooperation along the Border of Thailand and Cambodia" including information on projected steps and timeline for endorsement and approval;

(e) Updates on the outcomes of border coordination activities and the implementation of the multi-level framework in support of joint demining activities;

(f) Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

(g) Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Thailand to support implementation efforts, including projected gaps in funding.

(h) Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

90. In granting the request the Meeting noted the importance, in addition to Thailand 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.

## **H. Decision on the request submitted by Yemen**

91. The meeting assessed the request submitted by Yemen 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 2028.

92. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the continued difficult circumstances faced by Yemen in its efforts to implement the decisions of the Fourth Review Conference to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining contamination and carry out clearance to fulfil its obligations during the extension period. The Meeting further noted Yemen's continued commitment to strengthen and increase its capacity to implement its commitments under Article 5.

93. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, by requesting a five-year extension, Yemen was projected that during the extension period Yemen aims to continue with ongoing emergency mine action, implementation of the Yemen Baseline Landmine Survey in accessible areas, including re-survey, to establish a new baseline and development of the capacity of the mine action sector to meet the current challenge. The Meeting noted that Yemen is requesting the period of time necessary to strengthen its capacity and gather and assess data on contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop meaningful forward looking implementation plans.

94. In granting the request, the Meeting highlighted the importance of Yemen 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. The Meeting noted that doing so could benefit Yemen in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impact outlined by Yemen in its request are addressed as effectively as possible. The Meeting further noted the importance of Yemen 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). The Meeting further noted the importance of Yemen providing information on Improvised Explosive Devices in a disaggregated manner to provide clarity on the threat faced by Yemen.

95. In granting the request, the Meeting noted the importance of Yemen carrying out context specific mine risk education and reduction efforts that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

96. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Yemen could benefit from developing as soon as possible a resource mobilisation strategy. In granting the request, the Meeting further noted the importance of Yemen strengthening national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of Yemen's obligations under the Convention, including through the establishment of an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.

97. In granting the request, and noting that Yemen has indicated that the submission of a work plan offering detailed milestones of progress and the amount of time needed to fulfil Yemen's commitments under Article 5 would be unrealistic at this time and its commitment to the development of annual and monthly plans for implementation, noted that the States Parties would benefit from Yemen submitting annually by 30 April, attached to its Article 7 report, its annual work plan for implementation including information on milestones and projections of which areas would be targeted for survey and clearance by which organization as well as a detailed, costed, context-specific plan for mine risk education and reduction efforts. The Meeting further noted that the submission of annual plans by Yemen would facilitate the work of the Committee to measure progress in implementation of Yemen's Article 5 obligations.

98. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that as the implementation of Yemen's Article 5 obligations will be affected by new information, the level of resources obtained, changes in the security environment, and the amount of capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Convention would benefit from Yemen submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2024 and 30 April 2026 for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee noted that these work plans 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 and a plan for mine-risk education matched to a revised detailed budget.

99. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that the States Parties would benefit from Yemen reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Yemen's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land released methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through NTS, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance) with the results disaggregated by the type of explosive ordnance identified and destroyed;

(b) The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and update on how additional clarity obtained may change Yemen's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;

(c) The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes as well as by type of contamination;

(d) Methodologies employed for survey and clearance efforts;



(e) Information on progress in building the capacity of Yemen to address the remaining challenge, including efforts to approve its national mine action standards, strengthen information management, and the acquisition of necessary equipment;

(f) Updates regarding efforts to ensure the exclusion of civilians from mined areas including through the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

(g) Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of mined areas and amount of area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;

(h) Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively impact annual milestones for emergency clearance and baseline survey of known and suspected mined areas;

(i) Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities, and;

(j) Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Yemen to support implementation efforts.

100. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that in addition to Yemen 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, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

## **I. Decision on Eritrea**

101. Recalling the decision of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, failing the establishment of a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea and resolution of the current status of non-compliance through Eritrea's submission of an extension request by 31 March 2023, the Meeting decided to seek clarification and resolve questions related to compliance by Eritrea through the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 8.2 of the Convention. The Meeting mandated the President of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties to implement this decision and report back to the States Parties at their Twenty-first Meeting. The Meeting noted that the President and office holders of the Convention stand ready to sustain a cooperative dialogue with Eritrea to see that this situation can be overcome as soon as possible and that Eritrea is supported in reengaging in the work of the Convention.

102. 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 5<sup>7</sup> 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" paper<sup>8</sup> and encouraged States Parties, as appropriate, to continue implementing these recommendations. In particular, the Meeting recalled that late submissions 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 engage in a cooperative dialogue as envisioned by the process. Against this background the Meeting reiterated the importance of timely submission of the extension requests, in accordance with the established process.

103. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting took note of document APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.17 titled "Reflections on the

<sup>7</sup> APLC/MSP.7/2006/5.

<sup>8</sup> APLC/MSP.12/2012/4.

implementation of mine clearance obligations of States Parties and the Article 5 Extension Process”, submitted by Belgium, on the basis of its experience as Chair of the Committee on the Article 5 Implementation. The Meeting invited the incoming Committee on Article 5 Implementation to assess the Article 5 extension request process and challenges, based on the previously adopted decisions by States Parties and, taking into consideration other relevant documents on this matter, determine whether there would be a common ground for strengthening the process, including the considerations of all relevant stakeholders in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner, in particular mine affected States, and to report its conclusions and recommendations at the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties.

104. 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.

105. Also in the context of considering the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the “Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023” by the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/11.

106. Also in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention, the Meeting welcomed the information provided by Greece concerning the status of destruction of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines, including the provision of a tentative timeline of 18 months to complete the destruction of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines, as well as the information provided by Ukraine concerning the status of its 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.

107. 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<sup>9</sup>, as well as to seek the support of the Implementation Support Unit in the preparation of their reports.

108. 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 2023 Budget and Work Plan”, as endorsed by the Coordinating Committee and as contained in document APLC/MSP.20/2022/4. In the context of the “Directive from the States Parties to the ISU”, the Meeting also approved the 2021 “Activities, Functioning and Finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Interim Report”, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/5, as well as the “Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2021”, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/3.

109. Also in the context of its consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention, the Meeting considered the “Mid-Term Review. Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024”, as contained in document APLC/MSP.20/2022/6. The Meeting considered that the States Parties may intensify their implementation efforts towards the Fifth Review Conference in 2024. The Meeting further noted the importance to ensure that the increased demand on the ISU is reflected in its staffing and welcomes the conclusions of the Mid-term Review.

110. 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 Colombian presidency for organising, on 1 March 2022, a successful pledging conference for the implementation of the Convention.

111. In the context of considering the financial status of assessed contributions to the Meetings of the States Parties, the Meeting noted the continuing unstable 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

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<sup>9</sup> APLC/MSP.19/2021/14.

Parties participating in the meetings of the States Parties to address issues arising from outstanding dues. The Meeting requested the States Parties 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.

112. 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 and took the following decision:

(a) In considering the situation of unpaid assessed contributions before the end of the funding year, i.e. December 31st, the Meeting decided:

- i. the States Parties and the States not parties participating in the meetings of the Convention declare their determination to ensure full compliance with all financial obligations under the Convention. States in arrears will endeavour to pay outstanding amounts at the earliest possible date;
- ii. arrears for unpaid contributions will remain the amount of the initial assessment invoiced to the relevant States Parties participating in the meetings for the year in question. States Parties participating in the meetings will receive their credits back respectively to the year of their paid assessed contributions;
- iii. considering that the cost of United Nations servicing of Meetings of the States Parties/Review Conferences, in accordance with the cost estimates adopted by the States Parties, needs to be available 3 months prior to the dates of the meetings, States Parties will strive to ensure that payments are made as early as possible and no later than 3 months prior to the dates of the meeting in order to avoid negatively impacting the work under the Convention.

(b) Regarding the closing of accounts of the assessed contributions, the Meeting decided:

- i. after the end of each funding year, the United Nations close the accounts as soon as all expenditures have been recorded and obligations closed, but no later than September 1st following the year when these accounts were used;
- ii. the part of the credit available in the cash balance of the closed account will be returned to each State that paid its assessed contribution prior to the end of the financial period and reflected in the next annual invoice;
- iii. the part of the credit not available in the cash balance of the closed accounts, due to outstanding assessed contributions, will be noted. If these outstanding contributions are funded, they will be returned to States, this settlement occurring every 5 years. States Parties participating in the meetings will receive their credits back respectively to the year of their paid assessed contributions;
- iv. in the event of a change in the UN scale of assessment rates, the credit calculation is based on the UN assessment rates used at the time of the issuing of the preliminary assessment;
- v. no State Party can claim any credits back before the closure of the financial accounts of the year in question.

(c) Concerning the billing process, the meeting decided to confirm that the initial billing of the State Parties for the assessed contribution is based on the prior year participation in the Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference of the Convention. States other than States Parties will be invoiced retrospectively for their participation in the Meeting of States Parties or the Review Conference. Any State other than States Parties that has indicated that it will take part in a Meeting of States Parties or Review Conference will be promptly informed of the financial implication resulting from a participation in the meeting. The final

billing being based on the actual participation in the respective meeting, in line with article 14 of the Convention.

113. 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.

114. 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:** France and Iraq (until the end of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties), Colombia and Sweden (until the end of the Fifth Review Conference);

(b) **Committee on Victim Assistance:** Italy and Uganda (until the end of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties), Slovenia and Zambia (until the end of the Fifth Review Conference);

(c) **Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance:** the Netherlands and Thailand (until the end of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties), Algeria and Japan (until the end of the Fifth Review Conference);

(d) **Committee on Cooperative Compliance:** Switzerland and Türkiye (until the end of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties), Norway and South Africa (until the end of the Fifth Review Conference).

115. The Meeting agreed to set the dates of the Intersessional Meetings for 19-21 June 2023, subject to availability of conference space.

116. The Meeting agreed to hold the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland, the week of 20-24 November 2023 and to elect Ambassador Thomas Göbel, Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament, President of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties.

117. The Meeting further decided to hold the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties<sup>10</sup> the week of 25-29 November 2024<sup>11</sup>, and adopted its estimated costs, as contained in APLC/MSP.20/2022/14.

## VI. Documentation

118. A list of documents of the Twentieth Meeting is contained in the annex to this report.

## VII. Adoption of the final report

119. At its final plenary session, on 25 November 2022, the Meeting adopted its final report.

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<sup>10</sup> Without precluding any future interest expressed by a State Party to preside over and host the Fifth Review Conference

<sup>11</sup> Subject to availability of conference space.

[English only]

## Annex

### List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.20/2022/1	Provisional agenda. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.20/2022/2	Provisional programme of work. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.20/2022/3	Implementation Support Unit audited Annual Financial Report 2021
APLC/MSP.20/2022/4	Implementation Support Unit 2023 Budget and Work Plan. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.20/2022/5	Activities, Functioning and Finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Interim Report. Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit
APLC/MSP.20/2022/6	Mid-Term Review. Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.20/2022/7	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.20/2022/8	Activities and Priorities for Implementation for 2022-2023. Submitted by the Committee on Victim Assistance
APLC/MSP.20/2022/9	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023. Submitted by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
APLC/MSP.20/2022/10	Activities and Priorities for Implementation 2022-2023. Submitted by the Committee on Cooperative Compliance
APLC/MSP.20/2022/11	Activities and Priorities for Implementation for 2022-2023. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.20/2022/12/Rev.1	Oslo Action Plan – Status of Implementation
APLC/MSP.20/2022/13	Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Progress Report 2021-2022. Submitted by the President
APLC/MSP.20/2022/14	Estimated costs for the Fifth Review Conference 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. Submitted by the Secretariat
APLC/MSP.20/2022/15	Final report
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.1	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Afghanistan
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.2	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Guinea-Bissau
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.3	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Sudan
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.4	Solicitud de prórroga del plazo para completar la destrucción de las minas antipersonal de conformidad con el Artículo 5

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
	de la Convención. Resumen ejecutivo. Presentado por Ecuador
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.5	Solicitud de prórroga del plazo para terminar de destruir las minas antipersonal de conformidad con el Artículo 5 de la Convención. Resumen ejecutivo. Presentado por la Argentina
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.6	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Serbia
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.7	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Thailand
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.8	Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Executive summary. Submitted by Yemen
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.9	Analysis of the request submitted by Ecuador 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 Implement
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.10	Analysis of the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau 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.20/2022/WP.11	Analysis of the request submitted by 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.20/2022/WP.12	Analysis of the request submitted by Serbia 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.20/2022/WP.13	Analysis of the request submitted by Thailand 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.20/2022/WP.14	Observations on the request submitted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan 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.20/2022/WP.15	Analysis of the request submitted by Argentina 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.20/2022/WP.16	Analysis of the request submitted by Yemen 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

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
APLC/MSP.20/2022/WP.17	Reflections on the implementation of mine clearance obligations of States Parties and the Article 5 Extension Process. Submitted by Belgium, on the basis of its experience as President of the Committee on the Article 5 Implementation
APLC/MSP.20/2022/L.1	Draft Financial Decision
APLC/MSP.20/2022/MISC.1	Provisional list of participants
APLC/MSP.20/2022/MISC.2	Explanation of Position on the “State of Palestine”, Submitted by Australia, the Czech Republic, Germany and the Netherlands
APLC/MSP.20/2022/MISC.3	Letter to the Members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Submitted by United Kingdom
APLC/MSP.20/2022/MISC.4	Situación particular de las Islas Malvinas. Presentado por Argentina
APLC/MSP.20/2022/INF.1/Rev.1	Revised list of Participants

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