

**Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the
Request for extension submitted by Tajikistan**

Mr. President (Chair),

We, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, noted with satisfaction that Tajikistan had submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee in the extension request process.

- On 31 March 2019, Tajikistan submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 April 2020 deadline.
- On 9 April 2019, the Committee wrote to expert organisations in order to draw on expert mine clearance and legal advice on the request submitted by Tajikistan.
- The Committee would like to thank the GICHD, ICBL, NPA, and the Mine Action Review for providing their expert input.
- On 14 June 2019 the Committee wrote to Tajikistan to request additional clarification and information provided by Tajikistan in its request for extension.
- On 3 August 2019, Tajikistan submitted to the Committee additional information in response to the Committee's questions.
- Tajikistan's request is for 5 years, 8 months until 31 December 2025.

In analysing Tajikistan's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee.

Progress Made

The request indicates Tajikistan made significant progress during the period of its previous deadline.

In this regard, the Committee noted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

Tajikistan further highlighted quite clearly the circumstances, which impeded Tajikistan from achieving its deadline.

Tajikistan's remaining challenge

The request contains information concerning Tajikistan's remaining challenge. The Committee noted that, while it is unfortunate that after almost two decades of intensive humanitarian demining efforts Tajikistan does not have a precise definition of its remaining challenge, it is positive that Tajikistan is aiming to complete survey operations by 2023, with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking work plan taking into consideration the impact of results of survey for the remaining period of the extension request.

Implementation of its work plan

Concerning Tajikistan's work plan, we noted the importance of Tajikistan's efforts to increase its capacity for clearance and the strong support from its government regarding the recruitment of deminers. In this regard, the Committee noted the importance of Tajikistan continuing its efforts to ensure the implementation of its gender-mainstreaming plan, including through the recruitment of additional deminers and continuing to report on these efforts.

.

The Committee further highlighted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to report on progress of efforts to utilise mechanical assets in its annual work plans.

The Committee noted the importance of cooperation in addressing mined areas near common border areas. The Committee noted positively Tajikistan's commitment in keeping the States Parties informed by reporting on information on and plans to deal with mined areas along Tajikistan's common border with Uzbekistan.

The Committee further noted Tajikistan efforts to develop a resource mobilization strategy. The Committee highlighted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to keep the Committee

and the States Parties informed of any funding challenges it faces for the implementation of Article 5.

Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, in recalling that the implementation of Tajikistan's national demining plan may be affected by outcomes of agreements on survey and clearance in border areas, the impact of results from survey to be completed on 41 suspected hazardous areas by 2020, and the resurvey of 30 confirmed hazardous areas to be completed by 2023, as well as the feasibility of deploying mechanical assets, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Tajikistan submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2021, and the 2023 Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties(19MSP), for the remaining period covered by the extension.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request and subsequently in responses to the Committee's questions is comprehensive, complete and clear. The Committee further noted that the plan presented by Tajikistan is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect progress in implementation. The Committee also noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is based on significant co-contribution from international funding and the recruitment of additional manual clearance teams. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Tajikistan reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties, as part of its Article 7 obligations, on the following:

- a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Tajikistan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared and their impact on annual targets as given in Tajikistan's work plan;
- b. Progress on the agreement between the Governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan regarding survey and clearance of areas on their common border, including information on the national institutions involved in the effort;

- c. Updates regarding the identification, recruitment, training and deployment of an additional 90 deminers and support personnel, including information on the gender and diversity of newly recruited personnel;
- d. Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available from Tajikistan's state budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts;
- e. Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land, including reporting outcomes concerning the feasibility and deployment of mechanical assets;
- f. Updates regarding the structure of Tajikistan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Tajikistan 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 for Reporting.