

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

Mr. President (Chair),

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

- On 28 March 2019, Yemen submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 March 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 Yemen.
- The Committee would like to thank the GICHD, HALO Trust, ICBL, and the Mine Action Review for providing expert input.
- On 14 June 2019 the Committee wrote to Yemen to request additional clarification and information provided by Yemen in its request for extension.
- On 8 August 2019, Yemen submitted a revised request in response to the Committee's questions.
- Yemen's request is for 3 years, until 1 March 2023.

In analysing Yemen's submission, I would like to share the following on behalf of the Committee.

Progress Made

On the progress made, the request indicates that and I quote, "since the beginning of the coup against the legitimate government in 2014, contamination by anti-personnel mines, other improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war has increased in all areas reached by rebels", end of quote. The request also notes that, and I quote, "the conflict has produced a large amount of new contamination, the exact locations and extent are not known due to the inability to access these areas to conduct surveys while the old survey data are considered

outdated”, end of quote. The Committee noted the difficult circumstances faced by Yemen and the importance of efforts made during the requesting period to assess the situation and develop a new baseline for contamination.

The request indicates that during the initial extension period, emergency mine action response began in 2016 with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Based on these efforts Yemen released 28 mined areas measuring 291,333 square metres.

Yemen’s remaining challenge

The request indicates a remaining challenge of 326 hazard areas measuring 12,995,161 square metres.

The request indicates that due to a lack of access to contaminated areas Yemen is not in a position to offer a more accurate estimation of its remaining challenge. The Committee noted the importance of survey operations taking place as soon as possible and the importance of ensuring an evidence-based approach to the characterization of areas as a suspected or confirmed hazardous area.

The request contains a timeline for carrying out the following activities a) mine action emergency response (ongoing) b) nationwide non-technical survey, c) setting up of a prioritization system, d) update of current Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), e) update of the current National Mine Action Standards (dependent on government approval), f) strengthening of the information management system, g) procuring new equipment, and h) establishing a coordination office for YEMAC (dependent on government approval).

The work plan contains additional activities that are planned to take place during the extension period including, a) an agreement on resource allocation of survey and emergency land release, b) expansion of partnerships with INGOs and commercial companies, c) increase in survey and demining capacities, d) development of a staff training plan, e) open YEMAC

branches in Taiz and Marib to facilitate mine action along the west coast and other western districts, f) develop a new training plan for staff to address IEDs, sea mines and other explosive ordnance.

Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, the Committee noted that the request includes other relevant information that may be of use to the States Parties in assessing and considering the request, including further detail on socio-economic implications of remaining contamination, information on landmine victims and efforts to ensure the exclusion of civilians from mined areas, information on current survey and clearance capacity, maps and annexed tables. The Committee noted that by requesting a three-year extension, Yemen was projecting that it would need approximately two and a half years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge, produce a detailed plan and submit a further extension request.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request and subsequently in responses to the Committee's questions are comprehensive, complete and clear. The Committee further noted that the plan presented by Yemen is ambitious but workable and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Committee noted that the plan's success is based on increased security, access, recruitment of additional survey teams and significant co-contribution of international funding. The Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Yemen 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 activities listed in its 2020-2023 work plan;
- b. The outcome of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Yemen's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
- c. Progress made in addressing mined areas during the extension period disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared;
- d. Resources obtained relative to needs expressed in the request, including resources provided by the Government of Yemen itself;

- e. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation, and;
- f. Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, disaggregated by sex and age.

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