

**Fourth 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**

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**Oslo, 26-29 November 2019**

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5**

**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**

1. Yemen ratified the Convention on 1 September 1998, and the Convention entered into force for Yemen on 1 March 1999, with Yemen the first nation in the region to ratify the Convention. On 7 April 2008, Yemen submitted a request to extend its mine clearance deadline. The request was granted at the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) and a new deadline set for 1 March 2015. On 17 December 2013, Yemen submitted a second request to extend its mine clearance deadline. The request was granted at the Third Review Conference and a new deadline set for 1 March 2020.
2. During the past 57 years, Yemen has witnessed a number of conflicts that has resulted in significant contamination with anti-personnel mines (APM) and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).
3. The Government of Yemen is committed to the complete elimination of landmines and ERW. The National Mine Action Committee (NMAC) was established in June 1998 to formulate policy, allocate resources, and develop a national mine-action strategy. Furthermore, the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) was established in January 1999 as the implementing body of the NMAC with the primary responsibility of coordinating and implementing all mine-action activities in the country. Yemen quickly developed its indigenous capacity, moving from a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Direct Implementation Modality to a Nationally Implemented Modality programme in October 2003. Yemen also enjoyed an international reputation for technical competence through significant in-kind contributions through seconded staff from the Yemen military.
4. A nationwide Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) completed in July 2000 identified 592 mine-affected villages in eighteen of the country's governorates. Of those, 14 communities were considered high-impact, 578 communities medium or low-impact. The LIS recorded a total of 4,904 casualties over the past fifty years, of which 2,560 were killed and 2,344 injured. A total of 1,078 mined areas were identified, mainly in the central and southern regions of the country, measuring an estimated 922.7 square kilometres. In 2002 and 2006 non-technical survey (NTS) identified seven new mined areas with a size of 604,400 square metres in three communities impacting a total population of 36,747 persons.



5. Yemen had progressed steadily towards its original objective to address 923 square kilometres of ERW and mine contaminated land identified in the 2000, 2002 and 2006 surveys.
6. Yemen is in the tragic position whereby it was making progress towards being free from anti-personnel mines by the deadline of its first request., as described above this was made possible by a high level of government involvement and support through the NMAC and the implementation of YEMAC.
7. However, this all changed in 2015 when conflict erupted, adding stress to an already complex environment. Critical systems that support demining efforts have been disrupted to such an extent they are no longer viable. This includes survey, information management and casualty surveillance. Added to this, new mines are being laid, including on previously cleared areas. In April 2015, after the coup against the legitimate government and while the conflict was ongoing, the government of Yemen, with support of the United Nations Development Programme, established an emergency project for clearing mines and ERW, including mines of an improvised nature. YEMAC and UNDP continue to clear minefields, often under difficult circumstances. However, in so many respects Yemen has gone backwards in its efforts to meet its obligations under the convention.
8. From the challenges outlined in this extension request, it is obvious that Yemen will not meet its obligations as granted by Third Review Conference of the States Parties.
9. The startling feature that will be highlighted in this extension request will be the lack of data. This is not negligence from Yemen's part, but a reflection of the situation. Currently, there is no accurate understanding of the location and extent of mine contamination, and the exact number of casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. In this regard, carrying out non-technical and technical survey activities in areas where the security situation permits will be central in allowing Yemen to understand the new situation and produce a clear plan for the way ahead.
10. Yemen is requesting an extension of its Article 5 mine clearance deadline for three (3) years, 1 March 2020 – 1 March 2023.
11. Yemen is requesting three years until 1 March 2023 to develop an understanding of the new situation, allow time to gather data, re-orient the mine action sector to meet current challenges and reset the anti-personnel mine contamination baseline. The extension period will allow for Yemen to develop a coordinated mine action response, utilizing support of international organizations to carry out land release operations in support of humanitarian and development priorities, as well as meeting technical challenges, including those related to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and other Improvised explosive devices (IEDs).
12. We are hopeful that the security situation will improve permitting Yemen to carry out further survey activities to gather the necessary information to submit a fourth request extension request based on reliable data, analysis and planning.
13. Yemen plans to carry out the following activities to strengthen its mine action programme with the following timeline:
  - (a) Open a new coordinating office in Aden, (6-18 months-government approval was granted in August 2019);
  - (b) Planning to open new branches in Taiz and Marib to continuing the mine action activities on west coast, AL Hudaydah beside activates in Al Bayda' Al Jawf and western districts of Shabwah.
  - (c) Expand partnerships with international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and commercial companies;
  - (d) Increase of the number of deminers;
  - (e) Develop a training plan - to build skills for staff against new challenges; such as IEDs, and sea mines. Training can be conducted with INGOs and Commercial companies, (3-24 months – depending on security situation), there would also be periods of follow up coaching and mentoring from INGOs;

(f) Update national mine action standards (6-12 months-depending on Government approval);

(g) Develop an agreement on resource allocation for survey and emergency land release;

(h) Establish a priority setting system, (6 months); including implementation of IMSMA CORE. YEMAC is in touch with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining-Information management focal point, (6 -12 months);

(i) Undertake nationwide non-technical survey, (36 months);

14. YEMAC has increased the number of deminers to the highest impacted areas in the Eastern, Western, Northern, and Southern governorates. At present the capacity Yemen has is the following:

(a) 6 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams,

(b) 36 mine clearance teams,

(c) 8 mine awareness teams,6 victim assistance teams,

(d) 40 medical support, 2 mine detection dog groups,

(e) 10 technical survey teams,

(f) 4 quality assurance teams.

15. Yemen has identified an annual budget of US \$15 million per year is required to the extension request work plan for the period, March 2020 to February 2023.

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