
**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**

18 December 2017

English only

Sixteenth Meeting

Vienna, 18-21 December 2017

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of requests submitted under 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 Angola

1. This document is a formal request for a second extension of the deadline for compliance with Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which states that " if a State Party believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines referred to in paragraph 1 within that time period, it may submit a request to a Meeting of the States Parties or a Review Conference for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of such anti-personnel mines, for a period of up to ten years."

2. Angola signed the Convention in 1997 and ratified it on 5 July 2002. The Convention entered into force for Angola on 1 January 2003. In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Angola undertook to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these areas as soon as possible but not later than 1 January 2013. On 30 March 2012, Angola submitted a request to extend its mine clearance deadline. The request was granted at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties and a new deadline was set for 1 January 2018.

3. During the initial extension period between 2012 and 2016 there has been progress with 393 areas having been cleared measuring 23,810,940.93 square metres. During this period an additional 717.3 kilometres of roads were cleared. In total 15,624 anti-personnel mines, 902 anti-tank and 2,836 items of unexploded ordnance were identified and destroyed four national NGOs (APACOMINAS, ATM, ODAH and UDESSD) and five international NGOs, (NPA, DCA, MgM, MAG and The HALO Trust) having been involved in these operations.

4. Additionally, non-technical survey (NTS) was completed in 15 out of the 18 Provinces of Angola with NTS in the 3 remaining provinces ongoing. During the initial extension period Angola experienced some delay in completing the survey due to lack of finances. Collaboration between operators, experts from the GICHD and CNIDAH has



managed to considerably diminish the existing discrepancies in the Central Database which now offers Angola a better understanding of the remaining challenge ahead.

5. The Executive Demining Commission (CED), the State entity that coordinates the demining operations of the four public operators, the Security Unit of the President of the Republic, the Angolan Armed Forces, the National Demining Institute and the Border Guard Police, verified 9,547,229 square metres and 129 roads corresponding to 982.6 kilometres in areas intended for national reconstruction projects. The CED works with local companies, financed by public and / or private entities, as contractors to carry out these tasks. The aforementioned companies were responsible for verifying and/or clearing 49,868,333 square metres.

6. The plan contained in the request was designed for a period of eight years, to eliminate the identified 1465 areas measuring 221,409,679 square metres throughout the country. Including 219 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 71.890.852 square metres and 1,246 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 149,518,827 square metres.

7. During the non-technical survey process, a significant reduction was made of the total area recorded in the CNIDAH's Database as a result of the Landmine Impact Survey. For example, the HALO Trust, through the ongoing survey, has reduced SHAs by approximately 90% compared to that reflected in the database. The experience of Norwegian People's Aid's (NPA) indicates that 65% of CHAs have been reduced through technical survey leaving only 35% for clearance. In NPA's experience, a total of 90% of the total area of SHAs can be cancelled. Additionally, Mines Advisory Group's (MAG) experience proves that through the non-technical survey it is possible to cancel up to 90% of the SHAs.

8. Unfortunately, during this period, landmines and UXO continued to take a toll on the civilian population of Angola with 361 new victims, being 158 children, 98 women, and 105 men throughout the provinces.

9. There are currently 1,465 areas in the Central Database, of which have to be clear during the period of 2018-2025, corresponding to a total of 221,409,679 square metres.

10. The current plan was designed for a period of eight years (until 1 January 2026), to eliminate the remaining 1465 mined areas throughout the country. This plan was designed in such way, so as to enable the mobilisation of the necessary resources for its implementation with finances being the main risk to the plan. The total estimated amount required for implementation of Article 5 by 2025 is USD 348,355,205.80. This amount was calculated taking into account the criterion of each operator as explained above, taking into account the remaining challenge in each specific province.

11. Regarding funding, while there are some commitments from major donors such as the US State Department, the Government of Japan, Norway, the European Union, etc., there are no funds secured for the post-2018 period to date. This is the greatest risk to the programme. The plan of activities contained in this extension request will only be fully realised if the capacity and resources of operators are increased to cover the planned tasks.

12. The Mine Action Programme in Angola is coordinated and supervised by CNIDAH. The Angolan State through CNIDAH is working with its partners and with international donors in mobilising public and private resources to carry out the tasks of the plan attached to this request. The CED through its operators, in addition to its task of supporting national reconstruction, should firmly engage in the elimination of the areas contained in the plan of activities in this request.

13. In addition to this primary activity, other parallel or competing activities are necessary for the implementation of the plan such as non-technical survey; identification, collection and destruction of unexploded ordnance; strengthening and improving of management and control mechanisms; mine risk education; as well as a set of administrative, legal and public policies indispensable for the successful implementation of the work that Angola proposes to carry out.

14. The document included resource mobilisation efforts, which, as we know, are essential for the accomplishment of the scheduled tasks. In this regard, it should be noted

that Angola is experiencing a challenging moment, since it has a limited time, just eight years, to deal with the remaining problem in the light of the Maputo Declaration, in which States Parties expressed their ambitious intention to eliminate the problem of landmines in the world by 2025 the latest.

15. The scenario is dominated by the continuing lack of funds from both the Angolan State and an unprecedented economic crisis, and by the gradual and significant reduction of funds from traditional donors of the international community.

16. The Angolan Government is increasingly engaged in mobilising the necessary resources to implement this request, committing itself to allocate its limited resources to these efforts. The Government will also carry out resource mobilisation efforts nationally and internationally encouraging the implementation of Article 6 to attain the necessary resources to address the remaining challenge.

17. This request is complemented by a set of tables detailing all past and future actions. Tables are an integral part of this document and should be read, and understood as such. As a way of providing a better understanding of these tables, there will be critical remarks and references to them in different chapters of the document.

18. As can be appreciated from the current situation in the provinces, there is a strong need to address mined areas which are impacting affected communities as well as to continue carrying out verification efforts for development purposes. While the national and international capacities to carry out such work are located in or are easily expandable into the Provinces, the lack of resources for organisations working in mine clearance is a significant challenge. At current rates the goal of making our goal by the end of 2025 seems nearly impossible.

19. The financial uncertainty, the need by international partner organisations to decrease their teams, at times ceasing operations, makes it increasingly difficult for the programme to plan specific milestones of progress to be accomplished over the coming years. For this reason, while the Government of Angola aims to increase its own resources to address the remaining contamination, Angola calls on the international community to join us to see that Angola can fulfil its international obligations and bring safety and security to Angola's mine affected communities as soon as possible and, if possible, by no later than 2025.

20. In the past years, the programme has addressed a number of key challenges which have placed Angola in a better position than ever to address its remaining contamination. Angola has carried out the task of non-technical survey which has allowed to more accurately define the problem and has placed Angola in a position to ensure that resources are employed in the right areas and that mines are taken out of the ground in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Angola has also made progress in improving its national database to more clearly report and measure progress in implementation.

21. Organisations such as the HALO Trust, MAG and NPA have been supporting Angola's clearance efforts for over a decade with good results. Today, as Angola work towards the finish line Angola needs this support more than ever. Angola would call on the donor community to consider supporting the work of Angola and of the organisations on the ground in order to ensure a successful outcome by 2025.
