

FACTSHEET

Implementation of Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty

December 2013

Status of Article 5 obligations

Landmine Monitor has recorded that as many as 43 States Parties may have outstanding Article 5 mine clearance obligations. Of these, 30 have been granted one or more extensions to their original deadline, while five more States Parties have submitted requests for the first time to be considered by the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties in Geneva in December 2013: Germany¹, Niger, Serbia, Sudan, and Turkey.²

States Parties confirmed or suspected to be affected by antipersonnel mines

Africa	Americas	Asia-Pacific	Europe, Caucasus, & Central Asia	Middle East & North Africa
Angola	Argentina	Afghanistan	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Algeria
Burundi	Chile	Bhutan*	Croatia	Iraq
Chad	Colombia	Cambodia	Cyprus	Jordan
Djibouti	Ecuador	Palau	Germany	Yemen
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Peru	Philippines	Hungary*	
Eritrea	Venezuela*	Thailand	Moldova	
Ethiopia			Montenegro	
Mauritania			Serbia	
Mozambique			Tajikistan	
Namibia			Turkey	
Niger			United Kingdom	
Senegal				
Somalia				
South Sudan				
Sudan				
Zimbabwe				
16 States Parties	6 States Parties	6 States Parties	11 States Parties	4 States Parties

Note: Bhutan, Hungary, and Venezuela have informally announced completion of their Article 5 obligations. A formal declaration of completion is expected in December 2013

- Landmine Monitor lists seven States Parties that may be mine-affected, and thus whose compliance with Article 5 may be in doubt, but which have not formally declared themselves to have Article 5 obligations: Djibouti, Jordan, Moldova, Montenegro, Namibia, Palau, and the Philippines.³ The Monitor lists these States Parties as having residual or suspected contamination.

¹ Germany reported suspected mined areas in 2011 and submitted an Article 5 deadline Extension Request in April 2013, which it subsequently withdrew in November without providing further explanation. Germany has indicated that it will provide more information at the Mine Ban Treaty Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties in December 2013.

² See the ICBL Critiques of the extension requests submitted by these States Parties at

www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/Work/MBT/Mine-Clearance/Extension-Requests.

³ For more detail, see country profiles at www.the-monitor.org/cp.

- Burundi had previously declared completion of clearance of all known mined areas at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in November 2011,⁴ but in May 2012 reported that it still had suspected mined areas to release.⁵ In May 2013, Burundi requested assistance in surveying and clearing the suspected areas, if needed, in order to meet its Article 5 obligations by its deadline of 1 April 2014.⁶
- Jordan submitted its formal declaration of completion of its Article 5 obligations to the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties in Geneva in December 2012.⁷ However, Jordan has acknowledged that a “residual risk” remains.⁸ It continued verification in the Jordan Valley where the army re-cleared areas containing mines missed in previous clearance operations, and also re-cleared along the northern border with Syria where Norwegian People’s Aid checked areas adjacent to the border minefields that it had completed clearing in March 2012. Jordan said it expected “verification” efforts to continue a further two years.⁹ It suspended survey on its northern border in February 2013 because of the conflict in Syria.
- Germany, Hungary, and Niger have reported the discovery of new suspected or confirmed mined areas after the expiration of their initial clearance deadlines. Germany and Hungary reported new mined areas in 2011 and Niger in 2012. All three states had initial Article 5 clearance deadlines in 2009, and Niger will be seeking an extended deadline in order to address the contamination.

A total of 24 States Parties have reported full compliance with their respective Article 5 obligations, as set out in the table below. However, as noted above, there are concerns about Jordan’s compliance due to its continuing verification and clearance.

In addition to these 24 States Parties, Bhutan, Hungary, and Venezuela are expected to formally announce completion at the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties in December 2013.

⁴ Statement of Burundi, Mine Ban Treaty Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Phnom Penh, 28 November 2011, www.apminebanconvention.org/meetings-of-the-states-parties/11msp/what-happened/day-2-monday-28-november/statements/.

⁵ Statement of Burundi, Mine Ban Treaty Standing Committee Meeting on Mine Clearance, Geneva, 23 May 2012, www.apminebanconvention.org/intersessional-work-programme/may-2012/mine-clearance/statements/.

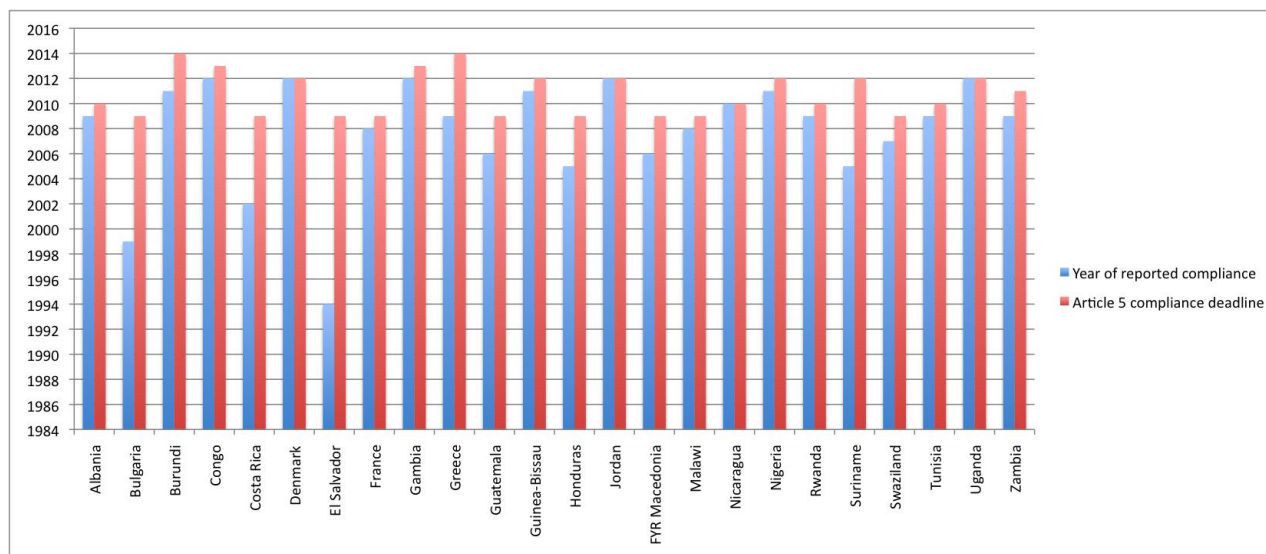
⁶ Ibid., 27 May 2013, www.apminebanconvention.org/intersessional-work-programme/may-2013/mine-clearance/statements/. Burundi reported in May 2013 that it needed further survey to confirm suspected hazardous areas around some electrical pylons located in Bururi, Bujumbura, and Bubanza provinces, but it still planned to meet its 1 April 2014 deadline.

⁷ “Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction,” submitted by Jordan, 5 December 2012, www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/pdf/mbc/MSP/12MSP/day3/10bi_ARTICLE_5_COMPLETED_-_Jordan.pdf.

⁸ “Jordan becomes the first Middle Eastern country free of all known landmines,” Press Release, Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit (ISU), 24 April 2012, www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/pdf/mbc/press-releases/PressRelease-Jordan-24Apr2012.pdf.

⁹ Statement of Jordan, Mine Ban Treaty Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Geneva, 29 May 2013, www.apminebanconvention.org/en/intersessional-work-programme/may-2013/mine-clearance/statements/?eID=dam_frontend_push&docID=16442.

States Parties reporting completion of Article 5 obligations¹⁰



States Parties granted one or more extensions to their Article 5 deadline

As of November 2013, a total of 30 States Parties have been granted one or more extensions to their Article 5 clearance deadlines since 2009, of which only six have reported completion of their Article 5 obligations: Congo, Denmark, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Nicaragua, and Uganda. Venezuela is expected to make a formal declaration of completion in December 2013. Four States Parties have requested multiple extensions since 2009: Chad, Denmark, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

Overview of the status of Article 5 deadline extensions¹¹

States Parties	Original deadline	Extension period	New deadline	Status
Afghanistan	1 March 2013	10 years	1 March 2023	Unclear
Algeria	1 April 2012	5 years	1 April 2017	On track
Angola	1 January 2013	5 years	1 January 2018	On track
Argentina	1 March 2010	10 years	1 March 2020	No change
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 March 2009	10 years	1 March 2019	Not on track
Cambodia	1 January 2010	10 years	1 January 2020	Unclear
Chad*	1 November 2009	14 months (1 st extn.), then 3 years (2 nd extn.)	1 January 2014	Not on track
Chile	1 March 2012	8 years	1 March 2020	On track
Colombia	1 March 2011	10 years	1 March 2021	Unclear
Congo	1 November 2011	14 months	1 January 2013	Completed

¹⁰ Burundi followed its initial declaration of completion in 2011 with reports in May 2012 and May 2013 stating that it still had suspected mined areas to release. Greece made a formal declaration of completion in 2009 and further released a suspected area on the island of Rhodes in 2013. Djibouti and Jordan are believed to have residual contamination.

¹¹ This table draws on data from *Landmine Monitor 2013* and does not include Extension Requests submitted in 2013 for consideration at the Mine Ban Treaty Meeting of States Parties in December 2013. The primary activity in the extension requests of Angola, Colombia, Eritrea, DRC, and Zimbabwe is to complete surveys by the end of extension period in order to identify more precisely the extent of contamination. Each country has indicated in the extension request that they will submit another request after the surveys are complete.

Croatia	1 March 2009	10 years	1 March 2019	Not on track
Cyprus	1 July 2013	3 years	1 July 2016	Unclear
Denmark	1 March 2009	22 months (1 st extn.) then 18 months (2 nd extn.)	1 July 2012	Completed
DRC	1 November 2012	26 months	1 January 2015	On track
Ecuador	1 October 2009	8 years	1 October 2017	Not on track
Eritrea	1 February 2012	3 years	1 February 2015	On track
Guinea-Bissau	1 November 2011	2 months	1 January 2012	Completed
Jordan	1 May 2009	3 years	1 May 2012	Completed but ongoing survey and clearance reported
Mauritania	1 January 2011	5 years	1 January 2016	On track
Mozambique*	1 March 2009	5 years	1 March 2014	Unclear; short additional extension Requested
Nicaragua	1 May 2009	1 year	1 May 2010	Completed
Peru	1 March 2009	8 years	1 March 2017	Unclear
Senegal	1 March 2009	7 years	1 March 2016	Not on track
Tajikistan	1 April 2010	10 years	1 April 2020	Unclear
Thailand	1 May 2009	9.5 years	1 November 2018	Not on track
Uganda	1 August 2009	3 years	1 August 2012	Completed
United Kingdom	1 March 2009	10 years	1 March 2019	Not on track
Venezuela	1 October 2009	5 years	1 October 2014	Completed clearance; declaration of completion pending
Yemen	1 March 2009	6 years	1 March 2015	Unclear
Zimbabwe	1 March 2009	22 months (1 st extn.) then 2 years (2 nd extn.) then 2 years (3 rd extn.)	1 January 2015	Unclear

* *New extension request submitted in 2013*

Of the States Parties with ongoing deadline extensions, it appears that six are on track to fulfill the plans submitted in their extension requests. Seven are falling behind on their goals, and progress in nine States Parties is unclear.

Five States Parties have submitted Extension Requests for the first time for consideration at the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in December 2013 (Germany,¹² Niger, Serbia, Sudan, and Turkey). Mozambique and Chad submitted their second and third extension requests respectively in 2013 also for consideration at the December meeting.

States Parties still within their initial clearance deadlines include Burundi (2014), Ethiopia (2015), Iraq (2018), South Sudan (2021), and Somalia (2022), as well as Bhutan (2014), which is expected to make a formal declaration of completion in 2013.

The ICBL urges the States Parties that receive extensions to fully implement Action #13 of the Cartagena Action Plan, which calls on them to work towards rapid implementation of Article 5 “in accordance with the commitments made in their extension requests and the decisions taken on

¹² See footnote 1 on Germany’s subsequent withdrawal of its Extension Request.

their requests,” plus to report regularly on such progress. The ICBL also calls on all States Parties that have received an extension to keep the time planned for completion under regular review with an aim of finishing as soon as possible, and urges the international community to provide financial, technical, and other support in a timely manner.

The information above is from *Landmine Monitor Report 2013*. Complete details on the progress of each country can be found at www.the-monitor.org.