



4th Review Conference in Oslo 25 – 29 November, 2019

Statement delivered by Mr. Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed, Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA)

Agenda 7c) Article 5 Statement

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Distinguished delegates,

First and foremost, on behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia, I would like to thank to Norwegian government for the generous hospitality extended to us in this beautiful Oslo City.

I would also like to thank to Sponsorship group for extending sponsorship to the Somalia Delegation in order to participate in this important Fourth Review Conference of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty.

It is my honour to provide an update on my country's progress and challenges in relation to the implementation of provisions of the Mine Ban Treaty in general and Article 5 in particular.

In Somalia, the presence of conflict related explosive hazards, including anti-personnel mines is a cause of concern for peace, security and development. Landmines and other explosive remnants of war contamination affects the country and threaten the lives and livelihoods of the population, specific groups such as, IDPs and returnees are specifically at risk.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased to inform you that SEMA together with Halo Trust and NPA are conducting survey and clearance activities in Federal State Administrations namely Puntland, Galmudug and South West.

In 2018 SEMA tasked to conduct survey with local consortium, at the end of 2018 SEMA and INGOs surveyed a total of 48 areas measuring 19,665 square metres.



In 2018 SEMA projected to clear 5 areas measuring 269,186.99 square metres. At the end of 2018 SEMA and INGOs cleared a total of 3 areas measuring 834,562 square metres.

Our database record with historical data from UNMAS resulted 494 mine areas including 342 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 54,060,046 square metres and 152 suspected hazards areas measuring 80,702,425.73 square metres.

In parallel to clearance activities, Local Consortium with international partners are actively involved in conducting Mine Risk Education to 909,777 women, men girls and boys.

Since the establishment of the Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) as a national institution that dealt with eradication of landmines and ERW /cluster bomb explosions in 2013, the Somali government has promoted collaboration with mine action stockholders at both national and international levels. UNMAS handed over responsibility for the mine action information management system for mine action (IMSMA) to the Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA). This is one of our milestone achievements and will strengthen the national implementation capacity for mine action activities through SEMA and will pave the way Somalia report to its progress towards treaty obligations progressively and in timely manner.

Distinguished delegates,

The vision and strategic goals of the government of Somalia for effectively addressing the challenges associated with explosive hazards in compliance to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Somalia's Article 5 deadline is 1 October 2022. SEMA has a strategic plan for this period and in the lead up to our deadline we aim to meet the following goals:

- Identify remaining areas of contamination by conducting national survey
- To submit the bill of Mine/ERW policy to the Somali Federal Parliament for approval
- 31 March 2021: Somalia intends to submit a request to extend Somalia's Article 5 deadline.



Distinguished delegates,

While all these achievements in the challenging operating environment in Somalia are substantial, we have a long way with obstacles ahead of us for making Somalia a safer place. The Specific Challenges faced in addressing contamination in Somalia are:

- Insufficient funding for mine action projects under all pillars
- Lack full overview of contamination
- Some areas inaccessible due to insecurity
- General lack of efficient coordination between SEMA and Operators

In an effort to address these challenges Somalia took part in the Convention's individualised approach event on the margins of the 17th Meeting of the States Parties, held in Geneva November 2018.

As an outcome of this event Somalia agreed to provide further updates on 3 areas:

- As mentioned, legislation that is currently before Parliament that will ensure allocation of funding from the State Budget for SEMA;
- SEMA is leading the development of its National Strategy and strengthening national implementation capacity for mine action activities;
- Somalia will continue to provide updates on plans to conduct a national survey on mine clearance.

This Fourth Review Conference in here Oslo, Somalia is committed to fulfil the outcome of Oslo Action Plans that will agree on the state parties to the landmine ban convention.

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Allow me to conclude my remarks by highly appreciating the generous support of donors, the United Nations, the UK Government and its DIFID project in Somalia for Capacity Development of SEMA and Norwegian Government, the national and international mine action organizations working for the protection of people at risk of explosive hazards. On behalf of the government of Somalia I would like to encourage the mine action entities and stakeholders for continuing their support so



that Somali people could one day live without the fear of being killed or injured by explosive hazards. We look forward to a partnership that results into the establishment of national sustainable and resilient local mine action capacity for Somalia.

Thank you!