

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

Mr. President (Chair),

We, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, welcome the inclusive approach taken by Chad in the preparation of its request and in formulating its indicative work plan, as contained in the extension request.

- On 16 April 2019, Chad submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 January 2020 deadline.
- On 7 May 2019, the Committee wrote to expert organisations in order to draw on expert mine clearance and legal advice on the request submitted by Chad. The Committee would like to thank the MAG, and the Mine Action Review for providing expert input.
- On 21 June 2019, the Committee wrote to Chad to request additional information on the request.
- On 13 August 2019, Chad submitted to the Committee a revised request in response to the Committee's questions.
- Chad's request is for 5 years, until 1 January 2025.

In analysing Chad's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee.

Progress Made

In regard to progress made, the Committee noted that information provided on progress made could be communicated with greater clarity and in an unequivocal manner, in particular clarity would be increased if Chad had indicated which of the remaining hazardous areas listed in the previous request had been released.

The Committee further noted the importance of Chad continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), disaggregating by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and addressed through clearance.

The Committee also noted that the full extent of the challenge faced by Chad is still unknown and that further survey is required. The Committee noted that it would be beneficial if Chad could provide a detailed plan with concrete milestones relating to the planned survey activities and the database clean-up.

The Committee further noted that while Chad has taken measures to strengthen the Haut Commissariat National de Déminage (HCND) and improve its working environment, it would be beneficial for the national programme if it did not have to face this situation on a regular basis.

Chad has highlighted the circumstances which impeded Chad from achieving its deadline.

Chad's remaining challenge

The request contains information concerning Chad's remaining challenge. In this regard, the Committee highlighted the importance of Chad reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS in order to ensure clarity regarding its remaining challenge.

Implementation of its work plan

Concerning the implementation of Chad's work-plan, the Committee noted that it was positive that Chad was envisaging updating its work plan to include the most up-to-date survey information. The Committee also highlighted the need to provide clarity in the plan by disaggregating activities relating to mined areas and areas affected by explosive remnants of war as well as a clear timeline for these activities.

Concluding remarks

In concluding, the Committee noted that while Chad had made good efforts to largely comply with the commitments it had made to clarify the true remaining extent of its challenge, accurate and coherent data on which to base a sound plan leading to completion was still missing. The Committee noted that while it would appear that Chad possesses more knowledge than it did in 2013 about the remaining extent of the challenge, work remains to remove inconsistencies in the data provided. The Committee noted that Chad's plan is ambitious and clearly states which factors could affect implementation and that it depends on a sizable amount of external funding.

In recalling that the request contains a provisional work plan for the period of the extension request, and that the plan will be affected by changes to the security situation and the impact of results from baseline survey activities, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Chad submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2022 for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee noted that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with the IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with by which organisation during the remaining period covered by the request, also matched with a revised detailed budget.

The Committee further noted that the Convention would benefit from Chad reporting annually by 30 April to the States Parties, as part of its Article 7 obligations, on the following:

- (a) Annual progress of land release activities, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including the identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Chad's work plan;
- (b) Updated information on the full range of practical methods used to release land, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems;

- (c) Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Chad to support implementation efforts;
- (d) Regular updates on changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- (e) Updates regarding the structure of Chad's mine action program, in particular the HCND, and;
- (f) Updates on progress with the database clean up undertaken as part of the PRODECO project.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Chad 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, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.