Comments on Eritrea's Extension Request
Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 25-29 Nov 2019

We are pleased that Eritrea did submit its request for extension to its clearance deadline, albeit very late and incomplete. We applaud the extensive and prolonged efforts carried out by the Committee on Art. 5, the Presidency and the ISU to help ensure the final submission of this request.

We welcome Eritrea's reengagement with the Mine Ban community.

While we appreciate Eritrea did make a formal request to extend its clearance deadline that would expire on 1 February next year, we remain deeply concerned over Eritrea's lack of compliance with the Treaty: there has been no progress in mine action in Eritrea for the past six years, Eritrea has stopped providing its annual transparency reports, stopped attending treaty meetings, and it failed to submit an updated Art. 5 work plan as required by the decision of States Parties on its previous extension request. Eritrea has truly disappeared from the map of the Mine Ban Treaty.

We urge Eritrea to use this one-year interim extension to take the following steps:
- Prepare a comprehensive extension request presenting Eritrea's current contamination, challenges that prevented it from meeting its previous deadline, progress made to date and a detailed work plan with a budget.
- Come back into compliance with the Treaty by resuming mine action operations as a matter of urgency.
- Start reporting annually on progress made as required by Article 7 of the Treaty.
- Engage in cross-border mine action activities with Ethiopia.
- Reconsider its policy of excluding international technical assistance in mine action, which would support efficient land release and re-open international funding paths.
- Develop and make public a resource mobilization strategy.

  We hope Eritrea will use this extension process to truly recommit to fulfilling its Treaty obligations and to resume its mine action with full speed to get back on track. No more time must be wasted!