

**Statement on Mauritania’s Article 5 Extension Request, delivered by Mine Action Review
Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021**

In the interests of time, Mine Action Review will focus our statement on key topics for attention and clarification.

- In reporting on the baseline of contamination, Mauritania lists the types of mines found in the confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), of which only some appear to contain anti-personnel mines (APID51 and VS50) while others are anti-vehicle mines (PT Mi-K, ACID51, TM57, Type 72). Mauritania must disaggregate its baseline data by contamination type, i.e. separate mined areas containing anti-personnel mines or mixed anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, from these only containing anti-vehicle mines. This should be clearly stated in the contamination table.

Areas only containing anti-vehicle mines do not fall under the Convention and should therefore not be included in the Article 5 baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination, although we welcome that Mauritania is planning to clear anti-vehicle mined areas too.

- For each of the mined areas detailed in the Extension Request, Mauritania should indicate if the mined area in question was
 - (a) known about prior to the declaration of completion in November 2018, but was then considered to be located beyond Mauritania’s jurisdiction or control;
 - or*
 - (b) unknown to Mauritania when it declared completion in November 2018 and was discovered subsequently.

For areas under Mauritania’s effective control but not under its jurisdiction, discussions need to be held and clearance coordinated with others concerned, in particular Morocco and the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic.

- Mauritania should use the extension period to develop a multi-year national mine action strategic plan to replace the previous one that expired in 2020 and to build its national capacity to address residual contamination.
- The Extension Request would benefit from a more detailed work plan, with clearance milestones and further elaboration on how areas would be prioritised for clearance.
- We welcome the plans to review and update national mine action standards (NMAS) and would encourage Mauritania to do this as early as possible with the involvement of key stakeholders, to ensure efficient and effective implementation of Article 5. We also welcome plans to consider use of mine detection dogs (MDDs). Mauritania may also wish to consider exploring the potential use of drones with thermal imaging.
- Mauritania highlights a likelihood of discovering new mined areas following the completion of clearance and states that it will build the national capacity to address residual contamination. The plans for long-term sustainable national capacity to deal with the residual contamination should be made clear, along with explanation of how building this national capacity will differ from what was supposed to be in place following the declaration of completion in November 2018.



- Lastly, we would welcome comprehensive information on what steps Mauritania plans to mainstream gender and diversity within its mine action programme.

Thank you.