

ICBL Comments on Ethiopia's Planned Extension Request



11 April 2014

We thank **Ethiopia** for their update on Wednesday. But we do have some significant concerns about the report. First, we understood that Ethiopia plans to ask for an extension of its deadline of 1 June 2015. That request should have been submitted by the end of December, and time is running very short for states to be able to examine it in detail. So we urge them to submit it as quickly as possible.

Second, while Ethiopia had been making very good progress on mine clearance for several years, after the program was handed over to the control of the Ministry of National Defense, we have seen no progress and very little transparency. In fact, we would like to hear more of an explanation for the delays as we understood the decision to make this transfer was in 2011, and was effective already as of 2012. We would like to remind Ethiopia of its legal duty to clear all mined areas as soon as possible. The fact these mined areas lie along an international border is of particular concern, and we remind Ethiopia that under Article 1, no State Party may continue to make strategic use of previously laid mined areas.