



30 June 2020

Statement by MAG
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Thank you, Chair.

MAG congratulates Senegal on submission of their Article 5 extension request and we extend our thanks to the national authority for the ongoing dialogue with our country office. We welcome the commitment to achieve completion by 2026, but note that an earlier target of 2025 in line with the Oslo Action Plan could have been possible with an earlier response from donor states. Currently Senegal receives no funding despite several recent requests to States Parties. We understand the Government of Senegal has some assets and resources that could contribute to completion efforts, however without international cooperation and assistance it will not be possible to deploy the capacity set out in the extension request.

We also draw your attention to three recent mine incidents that occurred within ten days in the Casamance region, resulting in a total of two fatalities and ten casualties. To prevent further human cost and in the spirit of leaving no one behind, MAG strongly encourages donor states to support completion efforts in Senegal.

Access to mined areas is also a critical factor in Senegal's ability to achieve its Article 5 obligations. We are glad to see plans for a new strategy with regards to negotiation with armed groups and engagement with civil society included in the extension request and hope to see these implemented as a priority.

As for all affected states, MAG would like to emphasise the importance of full application of the land release process, clear prioritisation, and improved information management. We welcome the inclusion of actions around gender and employment in the extension request, and encourage further efforts to implement the gender mainstreaming aspects of the Oslo Action Plan.

MAG remains ready to support the Government of Senegal in its completion efforts, and, again calls upon States Parties to assist.

Thank you.

ENDS