

**Comments on Senegal's Article 5 Extension Request, delivered by Mine Action Review
Intersessional Meetings, 30 June – 2 July 2020**

It is disappointing that Senegal has failed to make meaningful progress over the last five years and is, once again, seeking an extension to its Article 5 deadline.

In order to fulfil its Article 5 obligations within the requested five-year extension period, Senegal will need to very significantly increase the pace of its survey and clearance efforts and show meaningful commitment towards achieving completion as soon as possible and by 1 March 2026.

Providing more detail and clarity, to support its third extension request, will help Senegal to demonstrate national ownership and commitment and make it more likely that the international cooperation and assistance needed to complete clearance of mined areas will be made available.

Mine Action Review appreciates that Senegal faces many challenges in fulfilment of its Article 5 implementation, including challenging conditions posed by insecurity and access to many of the suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). It is, however, encouraging that Senegal reports to have developed a strategy for safely accessing SHAs and that an agreement in January 2020 has allowed some survey to proceed.

We encourage Senegal to provide greater detail and clarity in its extension request, including providing additional information on:

- a) What hazardous areas are included in the 1,593,487m² that Senegal reports as its remaining mine contamination;
- b) How much, if any, of Senegal's contamination is located in areas where security is assured and it can guarantee operations will proceed;
- c) What survey and clearance Senegal has conducted in around military bases; when was it conducted and by which organisation; and whether there are still hazardous areas around military bases that require survey and/or clearance;
- d) If Senegal plans to undertake technical survey of mined areas, to confirm contamination, prior to commencing full clearance;
- e) Senegal's current survey and clearance capacity and the planned capacity for the period of the extension request;
- f) Information on what steps Senegal plans to mainstream gender and diversity within its mine action programme, including on measures to ensure mixed-gender survey teams to help enable inclusive consultations with all groups in the local communities during survey and take the needs of women, children, boys, men, and ethnic and minority groups into account during prioritisation, planning, and tasking of survey and clearance activities;
- g) Plans for establishing a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas discovered following completion (i.e. residual contamination).
- h) Whether any national funding is available to support survey and clearance operations;
- i) Whether Senegal has received any pledges of financial support from international donors.

Finally, Senegal should make clear what will be different in the next five years compared to the last five, and why.

Thank you.