

## **Ethiopia Extension Request**

### **Intervention during 2019 Intersessional Meetings**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Government of Ethiopia, in particular the Ministry of Defence I thank the Chair and Committee for giving Ethiopia the floor to present an overview of its Article 5 extension request, submitted in accordance to the Convention and the processes agreed at the 7MSP.

Firstly, on behalf of Ethiopia let me say that unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control, our key technical expert was unable to make it this week to Geneva and has kindly asked that I deliver this presentation and share key points related to Ethiopia's request for extension.

Madam Chair,

Ethiopia's first extension request was granted at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties. At that time Ethiopia's remaining Article 5 challenge consisted of 314 suspected areas measuring over 1 billion square metres covering 6 Regions of the Country, (Afar, Benshangul Gumz, Gambela, Oromia, Somali, Tigray).

During the period 2015 to 31 December 2018, Ethiopia addressed 53 suspected areas measuring 136 million square metres in Somali and Oromia region. A majority of this achievement was realized through non-technical survey which led to 91% of the area being cancelled due to lack of evidence.

Despite these advances, due to several circumstances, namely; accessibility, limited operations, climatic factors, and a lack of information, our progress in achieving the goals set out in the first extension request were impeded. Hence, Ethiopia was not able to achieve its Article 5 completion within its current deadline.

At this time, Ethiopia has a total of 226 suspected hazardous areas measuring just over a billion square metres and 35 Confirmed Hazardous Areas measuring approximately 6 million square meters to be addressed. We expect the majority of this or over 90% to be cancelled.

Anti-Personnel landmines are still a concern to the people and Government of Ethiopia, landmines still block access to arable land, grazing fields, and other vital services such as clean water. Landmine restrict free movement of people and their animals and goods hindering economic productivity and social services.

As mentioned by the Chair, Ethiopia submitted on 31 March 2019 a request to extend its Article 5 deadline for a period of 5 years 6 months, (1 June 2020 – 1 December 2025).

We are confident that we can meet this goal with the support of the international community.

The extension request will allow us to:

- Address the remaining contamination (Noted: it is expected that only 2% of the suspected hazardous area will require clearance following Non-Technical and Technical survey).
- To complete the survey of the buffer zone areas between Ethiopia and Eritrea once demarcation is completed.
- acquire the support of donors and international advisors
- full equip demining companies, Rapid Response Teams and EOD teams
- Implementation of MRE to the community and marking of the SHAs
- Provide training and capacity building to demining teams, rapid response teams and EOD teams.
- Implementation of MRE to the community and marking of the SHAs
- Complete the work of the Demining Training Centre left unfinished by Ex-EMAO

The Extension request includes clear work plan for undertake activities to address this challenge.

In order to realize the stated scope and manual demining operations Ethiopia estimates financial resources of US \$40 million will be needed for this task. Ethiopia has committed to fund US \$8 million (20%) of the total from its State budget and will require further financial resources of US \$32 million.

In this regard, Ethiopia welcomes international support and technical advisors from States interested to further their collaboration in terms of cooperation and assistance, provided by the treaty to support the training and equipping of demining teams, so we can increase capacities and capabilities in a safe efficient and effective manner.

Ethiopia is entering a new phase of security, Mine clearance in Ethiopia has achieved a number of qualitative benefits with over 2 million people benefitting from mine clearance. Benefits of mine clearance activities include the resettlement of people displaced by the conflict, infrastructure reconstruction and repair, and the release of land security of previously conflict affected regions, amongst others. In this way, mine clearance is supported by the Government of Ethiopia.

On behalf of the Mission and Ministry of Defence we would also like to thank the kind assistance of the ISU who undertook a visit to Addis Ababa to assist in the preparation of the extension request.

We are looking forward to increased interaction with the ISU with the hope of kick-starting the implementation of our extension request with a national stakeholder dialogues in the near future with support of the ISU and the EU.

Thank you very much madam Chair and I look forward the comments from the plenary in order to seek clarity from Addis in this regards.

Thank you.