

**Comments on Ethiopia's Extension Request  
Intersessional Meeting of the Mine Ban Treaty  
22-24 May 2019**



In the past several years, Ethiopia has truly disappeared from the radar of the Mine Ban Treaty. After initial good efforts in clearing the land, Ethiopia's mine action work has been stalled for over seven years now, with Ethiopia failing to consistently and accurately report on latest developments and figures. We are encouraged to hear about Ethiopia's recent intentions to reestablish its mine action program and placing the Mine Action Office at a higher level within the Ministry of Defense. We hope Ethiopia will use the extension request process to develop a serious completion plan and will get back on track to indeed finish the job by 2025.

Among the positive points of the presented request:

- Ethiopia has presented a fairly straightforward work plan, showing how much land release and clearance is planned to be done by year, in which of its six affected regions, and at what yearly cost
- Ethiopia believes it has sufficient demining and survey human resources to carry out the work as per its extension request plan
- Ethiopia indicated the overall budget required for the work under the plan, disaggregated by year and by the type of work. It also intends to contribute 20% of the overall budget required from its national funding

Among points of concern that will require further clarification and follow-up:

- Ethiopia still does not know how many areas will actually be confirmed as mined versus suspected and its current data and plan are largely an estimate
- The current plan does not include areas in the buffer zone on the border with Eritrea, where demarcation has not been completed. Ethiopia needs to include a plan addressing these areas as part of the extension request. It needs to make every effort to be able to carry out survey and clearance as needed in this area and provide regular updates to States Parties in this regard
- Ethiopia's annual clearance targets are very ambitious, considering only one additional demining company is planned to be added. It would be useful if Ethiopia specified the number of deminers deployed per company

- Lastly, Ethiopia cited 'lack of funding' as the primary reason that prevented it from meeting its targets under the latest extension request. Indeed, currently Ethiopia receives close to zero international funding, and national funding is far insufficient. The current extension request plan is again based on the assumption of 'significant flow of funds for mine action'. However, Ethiopia does not seem to have any resource mobilization plan and at the moment it remains unclear how Ethiopia plans to secure the funding. This is highly worrying. Ethiopia needs to urgently present concrete steps it has taken and will take to reestablish donors' confidence and to mobilize funds sufficient for its work plan till 2025

While further preparing its extension request plans, Ethiopia needs to immediately resume its mine action operations to get back on track and to start regularly reporting on progress with consistent use of IMAS standards. This must NOT be another extension for non-action.