

Dear Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Jordan last reported to the States Parties on Article 5 implementation during the 10th Meeting of States Parties last year. Since that time, Jordan has continued to implement its Article 5 Mine Clearance obligations by working on two main fronts, namely mine clearance along Jordan's northern border and in the Jordan Valley. The two major projects covering these areas represent the last remaining tasks to be implemented by Jordan, in order to fulfill its mine clearance obligations under Article 5 by its extended deadline of May 2012.

First I would like to report on the progress of the **Northern Border Mine Clearance Project**.

Since Jordan last reported on Article 5, and as of May 31 2011, over 8,458 AP mines and over 2,830 AT mines were cleared and destroyed by our demining partner Norwegian People's Aid. Manual clearance and verification procedures utilizing manual, mechanical and Mine Detection Dog methods were implemented on over 845,100 m² of land.

At the end of this past May, almost 74% of the North Border Project's clearance phase has been completed, as well as 28 % of the verification phase. That is, less than 43,000 mines remain out of the original estimate of 136,000. *In fact, of this number it is estimated that at least half of those are no longer actually in the ground and were destroyed due to many factors such as fires and prior clearance by the army.* Manual clearance is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. Verification procedures are at a slower pace than clearance, we believe however that the new mini mine wolf that arrived in March will give a good boost to verification capacities.

With regards to funding of the North Border Project, all necessary funding has been secured for 2011 from Australia, Germany, Korea, Norway and the United States of America which will allow NPA and NCDR's operations to continue uninterrupted throughout 2011 and our funding needs for 2012 have also been partially secured?.

Clearance of the North Border Project is therefore moving ahead at a good pace and we are confident that we are on track to meeting our extended mine clearance deadline of May 2012.

It is with great regret therefore that Jordan reports to the Standing Committee and State Parties that on the 21st of December 2010 a fatal accident occurred involving an M19 Anti-tank mine. Omar Bani Saleem was a highly experienced Jordanian Deminer working with Norwegian People's Aid on the North Border Project. He was instantly killed in the blast. A thorough

investigation was conducted by a board of inquiry. The results determined that the accident's most likely scenario is that as a result of direct pressure from the deminer himself, the mine was activated when he lost his balance while changing the arming plate to the safe mode using the approved device.

Taking into consideration the ramifications of this tragic accident, as well as recent political events taking place in Syria, the project has indeed faced some unavoidable delays and interruptions resulting in a slight decrease in output. However, we would like to reassure the co-chairs that despite these setbacks our expectations to meet our clearance obligations by our deadline remain unchanged.

Secondly, I would like to report on the progress of the **Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project**.

Since Jordan last reported on this project at the 10th Meeting of the States Parties, major progress has been achieved. 51 Suspected Hazardous Areas with a total area amounting to 2.6 million m² have been verified in the past 7 month period between November 2010 and as of the end of May 2011.

Since November, three manual teams and one mechanical team from the Jordan Armed Forces Royal Engineering Corps and two mine detection dog teams from Norwegian People's Aid Mine Clearance Program in Jordan have sampled an area totaling 405,000 m² and removed 160 explosive items. This brings the total number of items located in the Jordan Valley under this project up to 422.

The project is currently undergoing an internal evaluation in order to assess how best to merge a further 110 suspected hazardous areas recently identified by the Royal Engineering Corps into the project's scope of work. By the beginning of July, three additional manual teams will be deployed and by November 2011 two mine detection dog teams will be leased from NPA for three months to accelerate the verification process.

Sampling, verification and release measures are currently ongoing by the currently available capacities, that is; one mechanical and three manual teams. With regards to funding needs for the Jordan Valley Verification Project, funds have been secured by Belgium, Germany and the United States up to mid 2012.

Based on the internal evaluation I just mentioned, a new plan will be developed to calculate the project's estimated completion date as well as what funds and assets will be required for the



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whole project. These calculations are being based on the use of six manual teams, one mechanical team and two mine detection dog teams.

Co-chairs, ladies and gentlemen,

Please be assured that Jordan remains highly committed to meeting its Article 5 obligations, and we are confident that with continued assistance from the States Parties, and hard work of its partners, it will achieve this goal.

Thank You .