



## **Jordan Article 5 Mine Clearance Update Intersessional Meetings**

Co Chairs, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Between 1993 and 2012, Jordan made impressive strides in reducing its landmine threat. Based on innovative thinking and the adoption of a risk management approach to releasing land, scarce resources were used in the best way possible.

With the leadership of HRH Prince Mired at NCDR, a total donation of US\$34,906,503 and around US\$10,000,000 in in-kind support was mobilized from the international community for mine action in Jordan between 2004-2012. This allowed Jordan to implement its 2005 and 2010 national demining plans.

With the successful completion of demining along the northern border, Jordan has demined all known mined areas in Jordan and thus has respected and fulfilled its legal obligation under international law as a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

The States Parties to this Convention have always been realistic in accepting that a residual risk remains in areas where anti-personnel mines have been emplaced. Therefore, as a responsible State Party, Jordan, with the support of Norwegian Peoples' Aid, is carrying out a verification exercise in and near areas that have been demined to ensure that the specified requirements of the Convention have been fulfilled. In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Jordan will do what the States Parties have agreed shall be done by reporting such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7, by sharing such information through any other informal means, by ensuring the effective exclusion of civilians from areas in question and by destroying or ensuring the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority.

Ladies and Gentlemen,



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In 2008 Jordan successfully completed the clearance of the Jordan Valley, and was eager to release the land to the end users. However, as accidents were still occurring in the valley, the NCDR felt legally and morally obliged to re-assess the work that had been done in the past. This led to the establishment the Jordan Valley Sampling & Verification Project, which has until today verified more than 7.5 million m<sup>2</sup>.

Post clearance procedures in both the Jordan Valley and along the North Border are expected to last for another two more years at least. Hence Jordan sincerely hopes that donors will continue to fund this verification process even after it has fulfilled its Article 5 Mine Clearance obligation.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all donors and partners and who contributed so generously to our mine action program. Without your kind support Jordan would not have been able to meet its Article 5 obligations.

Thank You Co-Chairs.