

# Sudan

Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my government's hope and expectation that the extension request submitted by Sudan for an additional five years to clear the hazardous areas from antipersonnel mines will receive favorable attention by the distinguished Analysing Group and to be approved in due time.

The extension request and accompanying work plan submitted by my team is based on facts on the ground and in line with political-military realities in the country. We are fully aware of our challenges which range from access to the mine fields to the scarcity of funds which otherwise will have a negative impact on our efforts to clear the whole territory of Sudan from antipersonnel mines as soon as possible. In light of these realities, we have expressed our concerns in the extension request but, nonetheless, have tried to be realistic in our planning and assumptions. The extension request that you have at your disposal has been the result of collaborative efforts by my team and our implementing partners and I am thankful for their hard work.

The convention entered into force for Sudan on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 and since then the total contamination for AP mines within the national database includes a total of 362 DAs measuring more than 289 sq km, a total of 240 MFs measuring around 23 sq km, and a total of 136 SHAs measuring above 27 sq km. The overall number of

the sites is 738 for all three categories which cover an area of more than 340 sq km.

Since the initiation of mine clearance operations Sudan has addressed AP mines containing 324 DAs measuring 273 square km, 182 MFs measuring more than 20 sq km and 108 SHAs measuring more than 21 sq km. It is worthwhile mentioning that Sudan has applied land release approach throughout the operation and released around 80% of suspected areas through non technical survey operation.

Although significant progress has been made in the past years, the following contamination with AP mines remains to be addressed. A total of 38 DAs measuring more than 17 sq km, 58 MFs measuring around 3 sq km and 28 SHAs measuring more than 6.5 sq km. The overall area is around 27 sq km.

2012 was the year with the highest number of victims since 2005 in spite the fact that South Sudan got its independence in July 2011. There were 103 victims with 31 killed and 72 injured. The victims were men, women and children. The problem of mines are mainly in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and eastern states of Kassala, Gadaref and Red Sea.

The government of Sudan remains committed to fulfill Anti Personal Mine Ban Convention obligations and continue to support Mine Action operation. As an example, it be worthwhile to mention that Sudan has pledged 1.3 million USD for year 2013 from its national budget.

At current in total 11 clearance teams that includes 9 teams from National demining units, 1 team from FPDO and 1 team from JASMAR local demining NGOs

are fully trained equipped and deployed to the field in eastern states. Most of these teams will move to South Kordufan and Blue Nile states once security situation improves. In addition, we continue to develop more survey and clearance team through implementing training activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are fully aware of our challenges and we are willing to face them with sound plan and in line with reality. We can either do something to help the situation and avoid victims or to wait for that perfect moment when things are absolutely ideal. I am afraid waiting for that ideal opportunity will only mean more victims. For that we need your assistance to support us so we may help the people of Sudan.

Thank You Very Much