

Dear Mr President (Chairman),

Respectful Representatives of State Parties,

Members of the United Nations, governmental and non-government organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sudan became a state party to the Ottawa Treaty in 2004 and committed itself at the time to meet Article 5 deadline by April 2014. During the past eight years, for reasons beyond our control, things evolved as such that impacted the mine clearance operation and as we see it today the government of Sudan is not in a position to meet this deadline and to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction.

The unstable security situations in Blue Nile (BN) and South Kordufan (SK) States since 2011 had a strong negative impact on the demining operations and the clearance work could not be carried out on the contaminated sites in those areas. As a consequence the Programme lost two years of its time to meet the Treaty obligation. Additionally the Sudan joined the Anti Personnel mine ban Treaty at a time in 2004 while the conflict was still on going.

In spite of vast challenges, the Sudan mine action program has succeeded in reducing the total number of known hazards by approximately 87 %. However the remaining 13 % of known hazards Areas comprises 47 % of total contamination in term square meters, due to the difference in sizes of each Hazard Areas.

In the next year, NMAC Sudan has planned to further clear 52 anti-personnel mines contaminated areas. Having said that, we are also aware that new hazards might be identified as new areas will become open for survey and clearance, but the number is not expected to be high. The current reality is that anti-personnel mine problem in Sudan is measurable

and can be treated in a reasonable time-frame to meet Sudan's Ottawa obligations, if the required fund is available.

The Sudan National Mine Action Centre presently has focused on the Eastern States and has deployed its available assets to clear the planned targeted number of hazards for 2012 and has managed successfully to close 65 hazardous areas as per IMSMA report in Oct 2012.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The National Mine Action Centre, on behalf of the Government of Sudan is obliged to apply for an extension to the current deadline, which is something we were trying to avoid.

On behalf of the Government of Sudan, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners, donor government and institutions for their continuous support in ensuring that Sudan rids itself from the problem of landmines. We would like to stand by and honor our commitments to the member States in the Ottawa Convention and to the international community as a whole.

Thanks you