

## Comments and Expectations Mine Clearance Deadline Extension Request



*13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty  
December 2013*

### **NIGER**

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**Extension requested: until 31 December 2015**

*Key comments on the request:*

- The action plan includes relevant tasks but lacks key information on milestones/benchmarks and on actors in charge of implementation.
- Explanations should be provided about the source of the contamination.
- In addition to the confirmed hazardous area, the request notes the presence of five suspected hazardous areas but does not specify why these areas are suspected.
- There has been a long delay of 2.5 years between the discovery of contamination and the planned start of clearance activities.

*Expectations for the extension period:*

The work plan for 2014-2015 includes elements that seem to be generally appropriate. However, the plan does not specify who is responsible for what, and lacks monthly benchmarks. There is no information explaining why contamination is suspected in Zouzoudinga, Achouloulouma, Orida, Enneri and Blaka, as well as on other roads and paths. *Niger should submit a revised work plan once survey activities have been completed, including a full list of confirmed and suspected hazardous areas, an operational plan with a break-down of tasks and a monthly calendar, and a detailed budget.*

Niger should use each upcoming informal and formal treaty meeting to present a report on progress made and remaining work.

Given that the country is vast, movements are difficult and the security situation is sometimes unpredictable, a methodology to investigate and eliminate the mine threat as teams progress should be considered to avoid coming back to the same sites repeatedly. This procedure is based on the mobility of multidisciplinary teams capable of carrying out risk education, survey and clearance.

The extension request does not include information on quality management. *Niger should specify who is responsible for quality management and what measures will be put in place.*

While it is very positive that Niger intends to fund part of the clearance activities, *more information should be provided on Niger's international resource mobilization strategy since the request notes that US\$ 527,000 remain to be acquired.*