

**Ninth Meeting**  
**Geneva, 24-28 November 2008**  
Item 13 of the provisional agenda  
**Consideration of requests submitted  
under article 5**

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING  
THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH ARTICLE 5**

**Summary**

Submitted by Chad\*

**Preparation and progress of work in the context of national demining programmes**

1. In 1987, after the withdrawal of Libyan troops from the Borkou Ennedi Tibesti (BET) region in the north of Chad, a region known as the Aozou Strip and claimed by Libya, the Government of Chad discovered the extent of contamination by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in this area, which covers about a quarter of the country. This contamination exists in addition to earlier contamination affecting the whole of the country in varying degrees.
2. In order to deal with this brutal and unexpected problem, the Government appealed to France, which in 1987 and 1988 deployed a company of French combat military engineers in Faya-Largeau and the surrounding area, and then seconded demining teams to Fada and Bedo to begin demining and decontamination of the surrounding areas and villages.
3. In 1988, it was decided to transfer this demining and decontamination mission to the Chadian national army's engineers after training of a number of units.

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\* Submitted after due date and as soon as received by the Secretariat.

4. In 1996, in view of the continuing accidents, particularly in the north of the country, the President of Chad decided to finance reconnaissance of the BET in order to compile a study on mine-related problems in that huge area which would measure the reality and extent of the problem posed by mines for the local population: accidents to humans and domestic and wild animals, huge no-go areas for stockbreeding, exodus of people to safer areas.
5. In 1998, the Government of Chad set up a national organization, the Office of the High Commissioner for Demining (HCND), for the coordination, supervision and follow-up of all activities relating to demining operations, and on 6 May 1999 it ratified the Ottawa Convention.
6. A socio-economic impact survey of mines and unexploded ordnance was carried out in 1999-2001. With the exception of the Tibesti region, which could not be visited for reasons of lack of security, the survey enabled a better understanding to be gained of the extent of the problem posed by mines for local inhabitants. It showed that 249 communities were affected and that 417 separate areas were suspected of being contaminated by landmines and/or ERWs in regions covering 1,081 km<sup>2</sup>. According to the same survey, of that area only a part, namely 440 km<sup>2</sup>, was contaminated by anti-personnel mines. In addition to these areas there were 135 “dangerous areas” where mines and unexploded ordnance exist but which cannot be linked to a particular community.
7. Also following the impact survey, in the course of demining and reconnaissance operations conducted by teams from the National Demining Centre and other operators in the Borkou and Ennedi region in the north of Chad, new dangerous areas and new minefields (AP and mixed AP/AC) were discovered, constituting a contaminated area of 96,297,542 m<sup>2</sup>, including 960,000 m<sup>2</sup> occupied by the three minefields discovered near the Ouaddi Doum base.
8. Following the impact survey, the Chadian Government instituted a national strategic plan of action against mines and unexploded ordnance. In 2003, this plan was integrated into the “Strategic poverty-reduction document”, the purpose of which was to permit the implementation of all development projects and permit the free movement of goods and persons in the mine-affected areas.

9. The first demining and decontamination operations began in Faya-Largeau in August 2000, under the supervision of international experts from the NGO HELP. This NGO was subsequently deployed in Massenya, Moïto and Ounianga Kébir, and then Fada, Kalait, Iriba, Guéréda, Biltine and Ouaddi Doum. In October 2004, HELP was replaced by the NGO MAG, selected after an invitation to tender for continuation of demining of the Ouaddi Doum base and then the demining and decontamination of Fada and the surrounding region. At the end of December 2005, the demining operations under way at Fada were halted for lack of funding.

10. Between 2004 and June 2008, the Government of Chad was frequently obliged to take the decision to devote its clearance efforts and part of its available funds to the decontamination of certain areas which were in need of priority attention either because of a massive influx of refugees or because they had been newly and very seriously contaminated by ERWs as a result of rebel attacks. But these operations, undertaken by the NGO MAG in the BET and by MineTech in the east of Chad, had to be halted without being completed. The MineTech company left Chad at the end of October 2007 because of lack of funding.

11. Given the extent of the challenge and out of respect for the commitments it has entered into, the Government of Chad has evaluated its humanitarian demining programme and reorganized the HCND by decree No. 498/PR/PM/MEP/07 of 28 June 2007. This decree testifies to the strong determination of the Government to give fresh impetus to this programme, which has security, social and economic implications.

12. Despite very limited financial resources, in nine years Chad has been able to reduce suspect areas by half, thanks to demining and decontamination operations, but above all thanks to technical reconnaissance undertaken by the various operators and certified by the HCND.

13. In view of the limited financial resources available, the HCND has marked practically none of the areas covered by the impact survey (many minefields were surrounded by barbed wire when the mines were laid). On the other hand, through significant support from UNICEF in particular, a substantial effort has been made by the HCND teams in the field of mine risk education (MRE) in the most dangerous areas and for the benefit of refugees and displaced persons.

*Circumstances preventing the State party from destroying all anti-personnel mines in the mined areas*

14. Despite the efforts made by Chad to comply with the obligations contained in article 5 of the Convention within the deadline set, the task remains difficult, and the implementation and observance of article 5 constitute a challenge which Chad cannot meet alone.

15. In fact, because of certain circumstances, Chad will not be in a position to fulfil its obligations by the deadline of 1 November 2009:

(a) First of all, Chad has been confronted with a shortage of financial resources in terms of both contributions from the international community and national contributions. This situation has worsened as a result of the numerous rebel attacks which have taken place in Chad, one of whose consequences has been the diversion of efforts and resources intended for demining to new priorities;

(b) Geography and climate have also affected the work carried out. Because of the huge size of the country, poor roads and the fact that the most heavily mined areas are situated in places with no asphalt roads, working conditions have been difficult. Moreover, no map of mines laid is available;

(c) The data obtained through the impact survey have proved unrealistic in practice, since the teams carrying out the survey often stayed several kilometres away from the minefield reported by a community. Because of lack of funding, Chad has unfortunately never been able to carry out a technical survey that would have confirmed or invalidated the results of the impact survey;

(d) Other problems emerged when the operators looked for mined areas and tried to link the coordinates of the demined areas to those entered in the database at the time of the impact survey. Management of the information contained in the database has proved difficult and the problems encountered over the years have resulted in unreliable data which have hence been difficult to use;

(e) Chad today is unfortunately unable to provide details of cleared areas relative to the areas identified in the impact survey; this constitutes a major problem for planning work during the extension period;

(f) At the national level, internal mismanagement of the HCND has been identified. The HCND has been the subject of several analyses and an audit which, in 2007, led to reorganization of the institution following problems relating to mismanagement of financial and human resources, frequent changes of senior personnel and shortcomings in resource mobilization activities.

16. The following principal measures to address this problem have been taken: reorganization of the HCND by decree in June 2007, personnel being reduced by half and special stress being placed on the maintenance of operational personnel; a technical survey to evaluate work done and, above all, work actually outstanding has been programmed, updating the HCND database in order to make it a tool for reliable and detailed planning. UNDP has also reaffirmed its support for Chad, and a new principal technical adviser has been recruited with emphasis on the mobilization of resources among his responsibilities.

*Duration of the proposed extension*

17. Chad is obliged to request additional extensions in order to comply with its obligations relating to article 5 of the Convention. It would like to obtain this extension in two phases:

(a) This document requests a 14-month extension up to 1 January 2011 to enable a technical survey to be carried out of the areas covered by the impact survey in 2001 and the areas covered following that survey. This phase will enable Chad to determine precisely the residual contamination to be dealt with and to draw up an action plan based on reliable data. In the course of this initial phase, Chad will also define national criteria for the rehabilitation of land, which will be applied in surveys on the ground, while continuing the demining of areas already identified as contaminated by anti-personnel mines;

(b) In 2011, Chad would request a second extension, the duration of which will be calculated early in 2011 in the light of the results of the technical survey conducted during the first phase. This new extension request will be accompanied by a detailed action plan, taking into

account the residual contamination to be dealt with and enabling the Chadian Government to eliminate all anti-personnel mines from the national territory under its control, which excludes the major part of Tibesti.

*Humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications of the extension*

18. Animal husbandry is an important economic resource in Chad, with twice as many head of cattle as the human population. In some regions, particularly in the north, usable land is limited and there are few alternatives. In other areas the inhabitants are forced to make long and arduous detours to avoid mined roads.

*Workplan for the duration of the extension*

19. The workplan established for the period 2009-2011 focuses on a technical survey, without which Chad considers that no real and credible planning is possible. This survey will cover all the areas listed as potentially dangerous by the impact survey; they will be dealt with in accordance with new criteria defined with external support.

20. In parallel with this, the available demining sections will be deployed to deal with the areas identified as having been actually mined and in which demining has often started. Priority will be given to the northern and eastern regions of Chad. Two new demining sections will have to be created and, once funding has been obtained, the choice of operator will be made by means of an invitation to tender. Chad is already working in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards and will completely review its procedure for rehabilitating land in order to be able to incorporate the latest developments in this field.

21. In order to carry out this plan, Chad is counting on three types of funding: the annual national contribution, a contribution expected from friendly countries on a bilateral basis and a contribution expected from international agencies on a multilateral basis.

22. Chad has also identified three factors which might have an impact on execution of the workplan: the level of funding, the insecurity created by new conflicts preventing access to certain areas, and new very hazardous contamination which would have to be dealt with on a priority basis.

*Financial and technical resources available to the State party in order to undertake the destruction of all anti-personnel mines*

23. Chad's annual financial needs for the execution of the 2008-2010 workplan have been estimated at US\$ 5 million and the Chadian State has undertaken to make an annual contribution of US\$ 2 million. A contribution from friendly countries of US\$ 1.5 million is expected on a bilateral basis, and another contribution of US\$ 1.5 million is expected from international agencies. Chad, with the support of the new UNDP principal technical adviser specializing in resource mobilization, will actively engage in seeking this funding.

24. The National Demining Centre (CND) is responsible for implementation of the humanitarian programme of action against mines and unexploded ordnance. In operational terms, the CND has two demining units, three decontamination units and three mine risk education teams. It is planned to set up two new demining units for the work scheduled during the extension period.

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