

Ninth Meeting

Geneva, 24 – 28 November 2008

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

**Informal presentation of requests
submitted under Article 5 and of
the analysis of these requests**

**ANALYSIS OF THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY CHAD FOR AN
EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE
DESTRUCTION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN ACCORDANCE
WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION**

Submitted by the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties on behalf of the States Parties mandated to analyse requests for extensions*

1. Chad ratified the Convention on 6 May 1999. The Convention entered into force for Chad on 1 November 1999. In its initial transparency report submitted on 29 April 2002, Chad reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Chad is obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control by 1 November 2009. Chad, believing that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by that date submitted, on 28 July 2008, to the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties, a request for an extension of its deadline. Chad requests a 14 month extension (until 1 January 2011).

2. The request indicates that the original challenge faced by Chad was identified by a Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) carried out in 1999-2001 and covering all of Chad's territory except for the Tibesti region. The LIS identified 417 suspected hazardous areas that affected communities in Chad and a further 135 "dangerous areas" that could not be clearly associated with a community. It was estimated that these areas totalled 1,081 square kilometres with 78 of these areas totalling 440 square kilometres suspected to contain exclusively anti-personnel mines or a mix of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war. The request further indicates that subsequent to the LIS, during the course of demining operations in the Borkou and Enedi region in the north of Chad, new areas containing or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines were discovered totalling approximately 96 square kilometres (96,297,542 square metres).

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

3. The request indicates that demining operations started in August 2000 and stopped at the end of December 2005 because of a lack of funding. The request further indicates that despite demining work having been undertaken during this period Chad is unable to provide an accounting of the areas now considered to be no longer dangerous relative to those areas originally suspected of being dangerous. While there is mention in the request that Chad has been able to reduce in size half of the original challenge, the request does not elaborate further on this point. The States Parties mandated to analyse requests submitted under Article 5 of the Convention (hereafter referred to as the “analyzing group”) noted that it is problematic from the point of view of national demining planning and in terms of providing clarity regarding progress in implementation if a State Party is unable to account for what has been accomplished relative to what was deemed to be the original challenge. The analysing group also noted that Chad had acknowledged this point and had taken steps through the preparation of the request to take corrective measures.

4. As noted, Chad requests a 14 month extension (until 1 January 2011). The purpose of this requested period is to provide Chad with the time necessary to survey all suspected hazardous areas with a view to determining with greater precision the extent of the remaining challenge and to elaborate a plan of action. The request indicates that Chad would then submit a subsequent request, the duration of which would be calculated at the beginning of 2011, taking into consideration the results of survey and planning activities. This second extension request would include a detailed action plan which Chad is unable to produce at present given the detail it lacks regarding remaining contamination. The analysing group noted the importance of Chad requesting only the period of time necessary to assess relevant facts and develop a meaningful forward looking plan based on these facts.

5. The request indicates that circumstances that impeded implementation in the 10 year period include a lack of national and international funding. A number of rebel attacks in part led to increased explosive hazards contamination. There was competition for scarce resources. The findings of the LIS inaccurately identified / estimated the extent of the challenge. Deficiencies in the management of information resulted in little reliable data. There were internal management problems. Finally, the vast size of Chad and a climate hostile to demining impeded implementation. The request further indicates the commitment on the part of Chad to take action to overcome various challenges, including by reorganising Chad’s national demining commission, redefining the terms of reference of technical assistance provided by the United Nations Development Programme, undertaking survey activities in order to realistically understand the extent of remaining work, and increasing national contributions to demining.

6. As noted, the request indicates that Chad is not in a position to provide annual projections of mined areas to be released but it will be at the time of submitting a second request for extension.

7. The request indicates that quality assurance is based on international standards. The request further indicates that current land release practices used by Chad will be reviewed and improved prior to the launch of the technical survey. The analysing group noted that improving land release practices to take into account all available methods and means to release, with confidence, areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, should enable Chad to more efficiently deploy mine clearance assets.

8. The request indicates that US\$ 5.0 million will be required each year during the period 2009-2011 (i.e., US\$ 15.0 million). The request further indicates that this is intended to cover, each year, US\$ 1.0 million for survey work, US\$ 1.0 million for the creation of two demining sections in 2009, US\$ 2.0 million for the operational costs of the demining sections, and, US\$ 1.0 million for the functioning of the national commission and for an emergency evacuation aircraft. The analysing group noted that Chad may benefit in its resource mobilisation efforts by providing greater clarity regarding these cost. The analysing group further noted that Chad could enhance its resource mobilisation efforts if it could clarify why annual costs would not be reduced by US\$ 1.0 million after 2009 on the assumption that the creation of two demining sections would be a one time cost, and by providing a cost breakdown for the amount required for the functioning of the national commission.¹

9. The request indicates that of the US\$ 15.0 million required during the period 2009-2011, Chad projects a national contribution of US\$ 2.0 million per year. The request further indicates that Chad is seeking US\$ 1.5 million per year from international financial institutions (IFIs) and US\$ 1.5 million from other external actors. The analysing group noted, given no previous instance of Chad having derived resources for demining from IFIs and that international assistance levels had dropped in recent years, Chad may benefit greatly from the terms of reference of the technical assistance offered by the UNDP having been adjusted to emphasise resource mobilisation. The analysing group further noted that Chad may benefit from interaction with other actors to assist in this regard, such as relevant Contact Groups.

10. The request indicates that the LIS provided significant detail regarding the socio-economic implications of mined areas and areas suspected to contain mines. The request further indicates that of 56 communities originally identified as having been affected by mines, 39 remain affected. The analysing group noted that as Chad is unable to provide an accounting of the areas now considered to be no longer dangerous relative to those areas originally suspected of being dangerous it was impossible to know any more in terms of positive socio-economic differences having been made as a result of demining efforts undertaken since entry into force. The request also indicates that efforts to implement the Convention during the extension period will save lives, lead to greater security of movement, better access to health care and education, participation in the electoral process and reinforce peace. In addition, demining will have positive economic benefits for Chad.

11. The request contains a work plan for 2009-2011 which focuses on reconciling existing data related to the number of areas to be addressed, conducting surveys to get an understanding of what remains to be done and planning future work. All areas that have been identified as potentially dangerous will be checked and actual mined areas will be marked waiting to be cleared. Demining activities will take place during the period 2009-2011 in areas where the presence of anti-personnel mines is known.

12. The analysing group noted that while it may be unfortunate that after almost ten years since entry into force a State Party is unable to account for what has been accomplished and what

¹ In response to an invitation by the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to comment on a draft analysis, Chad provided detailed cost breakdowns and other information. Documentation provided has been made available to all States Parties at the request of Chad at www.apminebanconvention.org/extensions.

remains to be done, it is positive that such a State Party, as is the case of Chad, intends to take steps to garner an understanding of the true remaining extent of the challenge and to develop plans accordingly that precisely project the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation. The analysing group further noted that by requesting a 14 month extension, Chad was projecting that it would need approximately two years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge, produce a detailed plan and submit a second extension request.

13. The analysing group noted that given the importance of external support to ensure timely implementation, Chad could benefit from developing as soon as possible a resource mobilisation strategy that takes into account, as is implied by the extension request, the need to reach out to IFIs and to increase support from traditional donors, including by engaging in the work of relevant Contact Groups. The analysing group further noted that both Chad and all States Parties could benefit if Chad provided updates on progress made in obtaining clarity regarding the remaining challenge and in producing a detailed plan at meetings of the Standing Committees, at the Second Review Conference and at Meetings of the States Parties.
