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**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention  
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel  
Mines and on Their Destruction**

22 October 2010

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**Tenth Meeting**

**Geneva, 29 November – 3 December 2010**

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of requests submitted under article 5**

**Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the  
destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with  
article 5 of the Convention**  
**Executive summary**

**Submitted by Guinea Bissau**

1. As a result of three main periods of armed conflict – the Liberation war (1963-1974), the civil war (1998-1999) and the Casamance conflict of March 2006 – Guinea Bissau is contaminated by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Mine and UXO contamination affects both urban and rural populations. A total of 1,140 individuals were recorded as killed or injured by UXO/mines between 1963 and 2004. Among mine/UXO victims, approximately 20 percent are women, 45 percent are men, and 35 percent are children. Roughly 25 percent of accidents resulted from UXO. Livelihood activities, usually farming, are the main reason for risk-taking behaviour.

2. In early 2001, the Government of Guinea-Bissau established a National Humanitarian Mine Action Programme (PAAMI) and the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI). In September 2001, Decree 55/001 formally created the National Commission for Humanitarian Demining (CNDH), which serves as the Government's steering committee for mine action. The UNDP and other UN agencies are full members of CNDH. Under the office of the Minister for Former Combatants, CAAMI sets policy for, plans, coordinates, approves and mobilises resources for all mine action activities in Guinea-Bissau.

3. The first systematic coordinated effort to quantify the mine and other explosive remnant of war (ERW) contamination took place in 2006 and 2007. The Preliminary Opinion Collection (POC) for the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) was executed by the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI) at the end of 2006. During the process of information collection and analysis, over 278 communities contaminated by mines and ERW were identified.

4. A targeted LIS was subsequently carried out by a British NGO, Landmine Action, in October 2007 and completed in May 2008. The LIS covered all but 7 of the 278 areas covered by the POC. Due to accessibility, security and other constraints, the LIS did not visit all communities reported by the POC. Additionally, the LIS was unable to visit

16 communities due to inaccessibility (roads bad conditions and floods). The LIS confirmed 80 affected communities in seven of the country's eight regions. The survey estimated that 12 areas were considered to be mined, covering 2,236,560 square metres (this is the size of the impact areas and not the specific mined areas) and 5 major battle area clearance (BAC) tasks with an estimated area of 930,000 square metres.

5. In addition to the results of the survey, a further 29 affected communities have been identified through reports by NGOs and communities, but remain to be surveyed to understand the full extent of the contamination and impact. Therefore, the benchmark from which progress can be measured in Guinea Bissau includes 12 areas known to contain landmines measuring 2,236,560 square metres and 52 suspected areas (7 picked up by the POC but not surveyed by the LIS, 29 areas unknown, not included in the LIS, and an additional 16 areas that were not picked up by the LIS due to inaccessibility).

6. Clearance has been undertaken since 2001 by several national and international agencies: HUMAID (Humanitarian Aid) began operations in early 2000 with support from the United States, Germany, Japan and the UNDP. LUTCAM (Lutamos Todos Contra As Minas) has been active since February 2003 with support provided by the UNDP through UNOPS. In addition, a British NGO, Cleared Ground Demining, has been operational since 2007. To date, a total of 10 mined areas have been addressed with a total of 3,226,859 square metres cleared and 3,051 anti-personnel mines, 155 anti-tank mines and 37,407 UXO destroyed. Two other areas are currently being addressed with 83,125.72 square metres having been cleared and 176 anti-personnel mines and 34 UXO destroyed.

7. Mine clearance has increased the free movement for people and goods and the availability of agricultural land, a decrease in accidents with mines/UXO and safer Guinea-Conakry border travel. In addition, as a result of clearance in Bruntuma, Binta and Suar, about 4,050 people have benefited from safe land for relocating IDPs and for agricultural purposes. An additional concrete benefit from clearance is that two mobile operators (MTN and Orange) installed their communication antennas to bring communication to those areas and allow contact with neighbouring countries.

8. All clearance work is conducted in accordance with IMAS standards. Mine clearance in Guinea-Bissau is based on manual methods, with deminers equipped with metal detectors and excavation tools. Land is released using clearance only as there is no other method, such as non-technical and technical survey in use so far. CAAMI is responsible for monitoring and quality assurance, two critical elements of Guinea-Bissau's mine action programme that have received considerable attention during the past year. CAAMI has and continues to work to develop an integrated quality control and post clearance impact assessment plan based on IMAS. CAAMI monitors adherence to IMAS and identifies gaps in technical expertise and efficiency. Through a monthly consultation process, policies and procedures are continually reviewed to ensure best-practice thinking and results-oriented service to ensure the impact. CAAMI controls the demining process through the accreditation and monitoring of demining organizations before and during the clearance process, and by the inspection of cleared land prior to its formal release.

9. Mine awareness and mine risk education (MRE) are the main tools used to prevent people from entering mined and suspected hazardous areas. CAAMI is responsible for coordination and monitoring of the Education Program to Prevent Mine Accidents (Programa de Educação para a Prevenção de Acidentes com Minas, PEPAM), with support from UNICEF, which also produced MRE materials. The main implementers are national demining NGOs (in conjunction with clearance activities or through community activists and animators), tasked by CAAMI. CAAMI provides refresher training and ensures that methods used are in line with the IMAS. Media is closely involved with diffusion of messages, through radio.

10. Financial contributions channelled through UNDP for demining activities are scarce. It is estimated that about US\$ 6.5 million was invested in the mine action sector from 2001 to 2004. Investment in mine action activities from 2005 to 2009 was approximately US\$ 6.8 million.

11. The circumstances that have impeded the implementation of Guinea Bissau Article 5 obligations in the initial 10 years are as follows: (a) Funding for mine action has not been provided on a long term basis. (b) The existing capacity to clear all 9 known affected areas and other areas reported outside the LIS is not appropriate and enough for the country to comply with set deadline. Clearance rates are relatively low, largely due to the fact that all mine clearance in Guinea Bissau is undertaken manually. (c) Operations in the rainy season are subject to delays due to the fact that manual clearance teams are unable to operate during rain. (d) The remaining tasks have not yet been subject to technical survey and the estimated figures are based purely on the LIS completed in 2007-2008. While these figures provide an excellent basis for strategic planning, there is a possibility that areas may not have been identified during the LIS process and that, when technical survey is applied, the areas may prove to be larger than previously believed.

12. There are nine known affected areas remaining measuring approximately 1,378,814.28 square metres, however these areas do not represent the size of the mined areas but the socio-economic impacted area and non-technical and technical survey activities are still necessary to determine the actual size of the mined areas and clearance needs. There are also other areas (29) not in the LIS report and another 16 not visited by the LIS, which are suspected and require survey activities to determine the extent of the contamination in these areas.

13. Guinea-Bissau is requesting a 2 month extension of its 1 November 2011 deadline until 1 January 2012. Although Guinea-Bissau is still positive that it could complete its implementation of Article 5 in known areas by its deadline of 1 November 2011, it is unclear and unknown what will be discovered by an upcoming survey that will begin in mid September 2010. The results of this survey will not be available until the first quarter of 2011, the year of Guinea-Bissau's deadline and after the last Meeting of the States Parties before Guinea-Bissau's deadline. If Guinea-Bissau does not request an extension and the survey results indicate that it, in fact, would need more time to carry out clearance, Guinea-Bissau would then have to submit a request to the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) for consideration. As the 11MSP would take part after Guinea-Bissau's deadline, Guinea-Bissau could find itself non-compliant with the Convention for the period of one month. It is this situation Guinea-Bissau is seeking to avoid with this extension as well as provide the States Parties with a clear and detailed picture of where we are at the moment and where we are seeking to be in the short term.

14. In order to gain a clear picture of the remaining landmine/UXO problem in Guinea-Bissau, the UNDP and CAAMI requested Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) to conduct a general and technical survey. Implementation of this survey is expected to verify the degree of landmine/UXO contamination and to increase clearance capacity for Guinea-Bissau to achieve its Article 5 deadline of November 2011. The main areas of activity are as follows:

(a) General survey will be conducted on a national scale by NPA to pinpoint, where possible, the size of contamination allowing the first area reduction and cancellation processes take place. As soon as the general survey is concluded, NPA will conduct mine clearance to help increase clearance rates in an attempt to achieve the set deadline, while technical survey will continue in the preparation of future tasks in accordance with the work plan that comprises all known LIS areas starting from the High- impacted areas to the low impacted.

(b) Technical survey by NPA will accurately define the boundaries of contaminated areas and reduce most of suspected segments in accordance with work plan of CAAMI, HUMAID and LUTCAM. These organizations will be conducting clearance tasks following NPA's survey activities under CAAMIs guidance. Technical survey will allow for clearance to commence no later than one month following survey completion.

(c) The other areas that were not listed on the LIS will be added to the clearance list as soon as they are surveyed by NPA.

15. The plan is based on the following assumptions:

(a) Based on the current and past clearance rates from HUMAID and LUTCAM the overage clearance for the three demining organization (LUTCAM, HUMAID and NPA) would be in the region of 95,000 square metres per month, with this rate subject to change based upon environmental and climatic factors and the degree of contamination.

(b) Given the above assumption, if all capacity is remains operational and no interruptions occur, it is estimated that from August 2010 to November 2011, Guinea-Bissau would have cleared approximately 1,378,814 square metres, which equates to the an approximate remaining LIS figure.

(c) It is expected that survey work will compensate for delays by cancelling and reducing area to be cleared with survey work expected to reduce the total area for clearance to less than 50 percent of the whole suspected area.

(d) It is assumed that there will be enough funds to keep all NGOs in operations, especially further funds to support LUTCAM operations throughout 2011.

16. Currently, funds available for implementing the work plan from September 2010 to November 2011 equal US\$2,883,974.

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