Zimbabwe

ZIMAC UPDATE FOR THE MEETING OF INTERSESSIONAL MEETIMG OF STANDING COMMITEES: 21 -25 MAY 2012 - GENEVA

INTRODUCTION

Zimbabwe has remained resolute in her endeavours to fulfil her obligations under Article 5 despite a lot of challenges. Over the last twelve (12) years, Zimbabwe has depended on the military through the National Mine Clearance Squadron for all mine action especially demining and MRE. Since 1999, when the Convention entered into force, Zimbabwe has cleared the **286 km^2** minefield on the Northern border with Zambia (Victoria Falls to Mlibizi), a total of **10,48 km^2** gaps through the remaining four minefields and is currently carrying out demining on the sixth minefield on the South Eastern part of the country (Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner minefield). **8,72 km^2** of this minefield has been covered, bringing the total of cleared mined areas to **305,2 km^2** and 198 379 AP Mines recovered and destroyed since entry into force.

Zimbabwe is very clear as to the remaining state of contamination. There are five minefields and three SHA that are yet to be cleared and these cover a total area of **205,85 km^2.**

Zimbabwe is engaging the International Community and other State Parties for assistance in order to address the remaining implementation challenges.

efforts by the NMC. The GOZ is committed to the success of this partnership, which we hope will last for years to come.

Similarly there have been some positive developments in terms of mine action assistance in Zimbabwe.

a. **HALO Trust**. The 4th of April 2012 witnessed the commemoration of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action for the first time in Zimbabwe as well as the signing of the MOU between the GOZ and HALO Trust. This will see HALO Trust carrying out survey and subsequent demining on the North Eastern part of the Country i.e the 335 km stretch Musengezi to Rwenya river minefield. However HALO Trust is still mobilising resources to commence the survey.

b. **NPA**. There has been some progress in the negotiation of the MoU with NPA. Admittedly the process has taken longer than anticipated. The two parties have agreed in principle on the areas to be addressed on the MoU and it is our hope that the MoU will be signed in the near future

C. **Joint Demining**. There are negotiations between Zimbabwe and Mozambique to jointly tackle the demining of the common border between the two countries. The two parties are working on the finer details of how this can be done. Work on the proposed areas will commence once this process has been completed.

EXTENSION REQUEST