



Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP)
to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Vienna, 18-21 December 2017
Statement of Federal Republic of Somalia on Clearance



Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Distinguished delegates,

I am very pleased and honored to provide an update on my country's progress in relation to the implementation of article 5 of the treaty.

In Somalia, landmines and other explosive remnants of war contamination started four decades ago as a result of internal and external conflicts. Since then, armed conflicts have never ceased, hence constantly increasing the extent of explosive hazards contamination in the conflict affected areas throughout the country threatening the lives and livelihoods of the population at risk such as the impacted communities, IDPs and returnees. The presence of conflict related explosive hazards including landmines is a cause of concern for peace, security and development.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased to inform you that the mine action sector in Somalia has recently initiated a non-Technical Survey, surveying communities located along the border areas with Ethiopia. Non-technical survey is ongoing and we hope that the scope and impact of explosive hazards including anti personal landmines will become better known progressively parallel to clearance activities. Additionally, and in parallel, Mine Action Implementing Partners are providing risk education sessions to millions of people, making a good progress from the awareness raising perspective.

In partnership with international aid community we are making progress in relation to improving the sustainable national mine action oversight and implementation capacity. Our national mine action institutions both for coordination and implementation such as Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA), Mine Action Centers of Somalia's Federal Member States and local NGOs have benefited from various capacity building trainings and mentoring services. Since October 2017, SEMA has taken over the responsibility for the mine action information management.

In order to clearly articulate the vision and strategic goals of the government of Somalia for effectively addressing the challenges associated with explosive hazards in compliance with the APMBT and CCM, the Ministry of Internal Security through Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) organized a strategic planning workshop where the programme's key stakeholders participated. I am very pleased to announce that Somalia's national mine action strategy along with the revised operational plan called Badbaado Plan in Somali has been drafted. We are aiming to finalize it in close consultation with the programme's stakeholders prior to the National Directors and UN Advisors Meeting in Feb 2018.

Police officers have received EOD and IEDD related trainings and mentoring, and Police EOD/IEDD teams have been formed and equipped. These teams are operational in major cities of the country In addition

to responding to IED and ERW threats, these teams work in support of other humanitarian mine action organizations for the destruction of explosive materials found during clearance operations. In addition to the police EOD teams which is in fact Somalia's national capacity for dealing with explosive hazards in the long run, local NGOs consortiums have gained experience in mine action. These entities are pretty much ready for being engaged in demining activities.

Distinguished delegates,

Somalia's National Development Plan 2017-2019 reflects explosive hazards as a concern for the development interventions. The ministry of internal security through SEMA is determined to take steps for sensitizing the relevant development stakeholders so that the explosive hazards risks are effectively managed in support of future development interventions. In the context of Somalia's National Development plan, mine action can effectively complement the Government of Somalia's initiative for preventing violent extremism (PVE) through job creation and enhancing livelihoods opportunities for youth.

While all these achievements in the challenging operating environment in Somalia are substantial, we have a long way with obstacles ahead of us for making Somalia a safer place. The humanitarian mine action sector in Somalia is underfunded. The national policies in relation to the mechanism for mine action service delivery need to be fully developed to comply with the strategy being drafted. Several steps have been taken in this respect, but more work still needs to be done with the support of the international community. The national mine action center is working hard to become fully functional. Similarly, local mine action operators including the police are still in need of building their capacity further to become more effective.

Your excellencies,

Allow me to conclude my remarks by highly appreciating the generous support of donors, including the United Kingdom department of international development (DFID), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Foreign Office, WRA, and the United Nations, as well as the national and international mine action organizations working for the protection of people at risk of explosive hazards. On behalf of the Government of Somalia, I would like to encourage the mine action entities and stakeholders to continue their support so that Somali people could one day live without the fear of being killed or injured by explosive hazards. We look forward to a partnership that is catalytic and results into the establishment of national sustainable and resilient local mine action capacity for Somalia.

Thank you!