

Mine Action Programme of Somalia: Status and Challenges in Implementation

Thursday, 29 November 2018

Introduction and participants

On 29 November 2018, Somalia and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention with the support of the Implementation Support Unit invited State and civil society representatives to engage on Somalia's needs and challenges in mine action and in particular its efforts to complete its mine clearance commitments by 1 October 2022. Following a presentation by Somalia, participants engaged in an informal discussion on possible opportunities of cooperation and assistance in support of Somalia's efforts. Participants received a package including an invitation and Somalia's Presentation, (delivered version attached).

Participants

States: Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Somalia

Convention representatives: Canada, as Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit.

Organizations: the HALO Trust, European Union, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), International Committee of the Red Cross, (ICRC), Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Mine Action Service, Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre.

Presentation

The Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) outlined their willingness to work with all mine action stakeholders to implement Somalia's commitments under the Convention. Somalia provided several examples of how they are working to improve the collaboration of international mine action operators with Somalia's mine action program including by developing methodologies, policies and legal frameworks, identifying funding opportunities and identifying challenges and developing plans to address them.

Somalia recalled that it is recovering from the effects of prolonged conflict and requires the removal of explosive hazards in order to begin economic improvements and construction of key infrastructure. Somalia indicated that specific challenges given by Somalia in addressing its remaining contamination include:

- Insufficient funding for mine action projects across the five pillars of mine action¹;
- Lack of an overview of nationwide contamination;
- Inaccessible areas due to insecurity;
- Lack of equipment within SEMA Federal/State offices;
- Lack of staffing within SEMA State offices;
- General lack of efficient coordination between SEMA and operators.

¹ IMAS 04.10 (2014) defines Mine Action as comprising five complementary groups of activities: a) MRE; b) Humanitarian demining, i.e. mine and ERW survey, mapping, marking and clearance; c) victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration; d) stockpile destruction; and e) advocacy against the use of APM.

Somalia outlined its plan to address these challenges, including:

- Conducting National Survey on mine clearance;
- Developing national implementation capacity for mine action activities;
- The Somali government is committed to prioritizing national mine action operations before the international organizations have received the international donors' budget;
- Continuing to build the capacity of the staff of National Mine Action Authority.

Discussion

Based on the presentations, the following questions and comments were taken from the floor.

Given most of the contamination was located along the Somali-Ethiopian border, participants asked if Somalia had entered into a dialogue with Ethiopia on mine action. Somalia responded that while engagement with Ethiopia on the issue was in its infancy, Somalia was trying to develop possible collaboration on clearance of areas along the border as a gesture for families to transit through the border safely. Somalia noted that there was a need to clear both sides of the border and that the number of deaths and injuries from landmines in these areas highlighted the severity of the situation.

Participants commended Somalia for taking the step to engage with the Convention and the importance of support being given to Somalia in developing national legislation and a national strategy plan. Other participants raised the importance of working not only on landmine issues, but also to address Somalia's obligations under Article 4, to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines. MAG shared with participants their current efforts in support of Somalia to improve management and destruction of such stockpiles.

Participants requested further information on the collaboration between United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and SEMA. Somalia responded that UNMAS was the first organisation to support its work, particularly in terms of internal security, victim assistance and survey. In this regard, UNMAS has supported SEMA in building capacity particularly on information management. SEMA coordinates its work with UNSOM which is primarily working in support of peacebuilding and AMISOM which is primarily working with the Somali National Army.

Other participants noted the cooperative spirit of the Convention and the diplomatic efforts of operators in building the capacity of SEMA. Somalia responded that NPA has started to build capacity of Information Management, including 5 teams in each State to conduct survey.

Participants acknowledged that Somalia's submission of its first Article 7 report in six years and encouraged continued reporting. Participants also noted the timely participation of Somalia in the individualised approach given the need to build awareness and engagement in the lead-up to its 1 January 2022 Article 5 deadline.

Closing Remarks

In closing, Somalia emphasised the importance of SEMA to coordinate its work between the actors in country, to ensure effective tasking of clearance operations and to continue submission of its Article 7 reports to share its progress in implementing its obligations under the Convention.

Follow up

- Somalia will provide further updates on legislation that is currently before Parliament that will ensure allocation of funding from the State Budget for SEMA;
- Somalia will provide further information on the development of its National Strategy and progress in strengthening national implementation capacity for mine action activities;
- Somalia will provide updates on plans to conduct a national survey on mine clearance.

Contact Information

Requests for further information can be directed to Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, Ministry of Internal Security Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA), Victim Assistance and Treaties Implementation Officer; dahiru@sema.org.so

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Participant List

Somalia's Individualised Approach Participant List

Thursday, 29 November 2018 on the margins of the 17MSP

States

No.	State	Name
1	Permanent Mission of Finland	Mikko Autti
2	Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Koen Höcker
3	Permanent Mission of Norway	Hana Cervenka
4	Permanent Mission of Somalia	Garad Mursal
5	Permanent Mission of Somalia	Abukar Maxamed
6	Committee on Cooperation and Assistance	Jérôme Collard-Proulx
7	Implementation Support Unit	Gregory Cathcart

Organisations

No.	Organisation	Name
8	HALO Trust	Chris Pym
9	European Union	Frank Meeussen
10	European Union (Devco)	Jean-Jaques Lauture
11	International Coalition to Ban Landmines	Amelie Chayer
12	Mines Advisory Group	Lizzie Humphreys
13	Norwegian People's Aid	Katherine Harrison
14	Norwegian People's Aid	Claus Nielsen
15	United Nations Development Programme	Olaf Juergensen
16	United Nations Mine Action Service	M. Sediq Rashid
17	United Nations Mine Action Service	Qurat Ur Ain Sadozai