

ICBL comments on the Extension Request DRC, Eritrea, and Nigeria

ISC meetings, 30 June – 2 July 2020

DRC:

We regret that the DRC will not be able to meet its clearance deadline of 1 January 2021 and that it has not been able to submit its formal request for extension. We are pleased, however, that the DRC is participating in this meeting and presented its initial plan. We await the DRC to submit its formal request with urgency and will provide more comments upon its submission.

Eritrea:

We are very concerned about the lack of Eritrea's request or intention to request to extend its clearance deadline. Last year at the 4 Review Conference, Eritrea was granted a third request, of interim nature, to extend its mine clearance deadline by a year till 31 December 2020. As per the decision Eritrea was required to present a comprehensive request with a detailed work and budget by 31 March this year. It is deeply concerning Eritrea is not taking part in this meeting. Eritrea needs to submit its request without any further delay to allow proper consideration and decision by the MSP. Otherwise Eritrea will be in non-compliance with the Treaty. At the same time, Eritrea needs to immediately resume its mine action operations, which has been stalled for several years now, putting Eritrea in de facto non-compliance with its obligations under art. 5 to clear as soon as possible.

Nigeria:

Faced with new contamination (mostly of improvised nature), Nigeria needs to ask for a new deadline to declare, clarify and clear its contamination. We regret Nigeria is not taking part in this meeting and has not submitted a formal request for extension. Nigeria needs to do that without delay.

In closing we thank the Committee on Art. 5 and the ISU for their tireless efforts in reaching and supporting all the states to ensure submission of the extension requests.