

Thank you, Madam Chair,

We thank Mauritania for its request and for providing additional information today.

This is a complete and comprehensive request that includes all essential elements, such as a workplan, MRE plan, a budget and a resource mobilization plan.

Mines continue to cause suffering and casualties in Mauritania. Each year since 2018, new mine and ERW victims have been reported. And many more go unreported. Victims bear the brunt of old territorial conflicts. The contamination also has a socioeconomic impact on local communities, preventing access to pastures and other community resources, and killing livestock – the main resources of rural communities.

It is therefore urgent that Mauritania achieves completion for good in the shortest possible time, and by the 2025 completion goal.

Survey will provide a more accurate picture of the extent of contamination, potentially reducing the initial estimate of contamination. We call on Mauritania to carry out survey as soon as possible and to provide an update on this by the end of 2022. We hope that at this point Mauritania may be able to revisit its extension plan and bring its completion deadline forward.

In parallel, Mauritania needs to do all it can to prevent further suffering and casualties through a targeted risk education program. We therefore welcome the inclusion of a risk education plan in the request, but ask Mauritania to provide more information about the groups at risk, as well as annual plans and budgets for each year to meet the requirement of Action#24 of the OAP of a *“detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities”*.

Successful resource mobilization is key to enabling timely and effective implementation of plans. The government of Mauritania needs to lead the way. We congratulate Mauritania on engaging in the individualized approach meeting last week and call on the government of Mauritania to contribute national funds for survey and clearance operations.

We trust that donors and partners will work closely with Mauritania to clear remaining contamination, once and for all, and by 2025.

We will share more detailed comments and questions on the request directly with Mauritania.

Thank you.