

**Statement on Somalia's Article 5 Extension Request, delivered by Mine Action Review
Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021**

In the interests of time, Mine Action Review will focus our statement on key topics for attention and clarification.

- Somalia should be encouraged to provide more detail and clarity to support its extension request. This will help it to demonstrate national ownership and commitment and make it more likely that the international cooperation and assistance needed to build national capacity, conduct non-technical survey (NTS), and clear mined areas will be made available.
- It is unclear whether the five-year extension requested by Somalia is intended as **(a)** the full amount of time needed to fulfil its Article 5 obligations *or* **(b)** an interim extension request, in order to establish the baseline of mine contamination. This should be clarified and made clear in the extension request.
- Somalia has split its extension request into two phases.

Phase 1 is from April 2021 – 1 October 2022 (i.e. the period prior to the date from which the extension request becomes effective) where it will focus on building the capacity of national demining institutions, planning NTS in accessible areas, and continuing land release activities.

The extension request states that SEMA will develop a more detailed and structured work plan that is to be presented in addition to this request in 2021.

This work plan should be made available by Somalia ASAP and prior to a decision being taken by States Parties on the extension request at 19MSP.

The work plan should include more detailed information on the planned NTS (including what proportion of mined areas are currently accessible for survey, and conversely which are not accessible due to security concerns), as well as land release targets, and current and planned survey and clearance capacity of operators in-country.

Phase 2 is from 1 October 2022 to 1 October 2027. During this period Somalia will continue with phase 1 activities but with a greater focus on the implementation of non-technical survey.

- In order to meaningfully plan for implementation of Article 5, Somalia must establish a nationwide baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination. It is therefore positive that Somalia intends to conduct NTS.

As part of its planned NTS, Somalia must ensure that anti-personnel mine contamination (or mixed anti-personnel mine and other explosive ordnance contamination) is disaggregated from those areas only containing anti-vehicle mines or only explosive remnants of war (ERW).

- Somalia interprets its current obligations under the Convention to encompass anti-personnel mine contamination in the remaining states of Somalia, because although Somaliland remains

under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government of Somalia, it not currently under government's de facto control. We understand this reality and the challenges it poses, but Somalia's interpretation is legally incorrect. Article 5 covers jurisdiction *or* control of mined areas.

- It is important to note that SEMA is still not officially recognized/approved as an institute of the Federal government and is not supported by the Somalia national budget. It is therefore wholly reliant on international financial resources for its mine action programme.
- Given the lack of information provided in the extension request on the current baseline of mined area and Somalia's plans to address it, Somalia should commit to providing annual updates through Article 7 reporting and revised work plans, as and when more information becomes available.
- Lastly, Mine Action Review encourages Somalia to provide further information on how it plans to mainstream gender and diversity within its mine action programme.

Thank you.