

**Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the  
Request for extension submitted by Sudan**

Mr. President (Chair),

The Committee noted with satisfaction that Sudan had submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee.

- On 1 April 2022, Sudan submitted to the Committee a request for extension of its 1 April 2023 deadline.
- The Committee would like to thank the ICBL, GICHD and the Mine Action Review for providing expert input which was instrumental for the engagement of the Committee with Sudan.
- On 15 June 2022, the Committee wrote to Sudan requesting additional information and clarity on key areas of the request.
- On 25 August 2022, Sudan submitted a revised request for extension integrating some of the responses to the Committee's questions.
  
- Sudan's request is for four years, until 1 April 2027.

The request provided information on the progress made during the previous extension period including improvements in the security situation in some areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan which have allowed Sudan to carry out further survey activities.

The request indicates that areas under the control of non-state actors that are still not a signatory to the Juba Peace Agreement and remain inaccessible due to security and that plans have been prepared to address the problem of mines once conditions permit.

The request contains information concerning Sudan's remaining challenge. The request also indicates that while parts of Blue Nile and South Kordofan are still not accessible, more areas have become accessible since 2019 due to the political changes in Sudan and the Juba Peace Talks.

The request indicates that, in accessible areas, Sudan has identified a total remaining challenge of 102 hazardous areas, measuring 13,275,840 square metres, including 61 CHA measuring 3,313,221 square metres and 41 SHA measuring 9,962,619 square metres located in the States of Blue Nile, South Kordofan and West Kordofan.

The Committee noted that Sudan provided information on progress and the remaining challenge in accordance with IMAS and encourages Sudan to continue reporting in this manner. The Committee further noted that Sudan's efforts to implement Article 5 are only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards and, as such, noted the importance of Sudan continuing to provide information disaggregated by type of contamination.

Sudan has highlighted quite clearly the circumstances which impeded Sudan from achieving its deadline including a) changes in security and access to mined areas, b) progress in survey implementation, including survey outputs and the impact of survey on Sudan's remaining challenge and, c) updated annual milestones, including priorities.

The Committee noted that access to the Blue Nile and South Kordofan is dependent upon improvement in security, as well as progress in the peace process and welcomes regular updates from Sudan in this regard.

The Committee further noted in its analysis several efforts put forward by Sudan to strengthen its national capacity including the development of a national strategy. The Committee noted the importance of Sudan's efforts to strengthen its implementation efforts and to have in place costed and time-bound national strategies in order to fulfil and implement Convention obligations as soon as possible and welcomed updates on the steps and timeline for the development and approval of the strategy.

Concerning Sudan's work plan:

The request provides information on area which Sudan intends to address during the remaining timeframe of its current extension and includes a two-phase work plan for the period of the extension request with milestones to be addressed.

The Committee noted the importance of Sudan providing annual updates to its work plan based on new evidence and reporting on adjusted milestones as well as changes in security and access to mined areas. The Committee further noted the importance of Sudan providing updates on the results of survey efforts.

The request indicates that Sudan projects that 30-50 percent of all SHAs can be cancelled and based on updated national standards projects that additional cancellation and reduction will take place. The Committee noted the importance of Sudan having in place national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS which may result in implementation that proceeds much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested and in a more cost-effective manner. The Committee noted that doing so could benefit Sudan in ensuring that the grave humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Sudan in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.

The request contains a plan for EORE, including plans to conduct assessments with stakeholders and ensure the application of context specific methodologies and the integration of EORE into other sectors. In response to questions for further information from the Committee Sudan indicated that a new national standard for EORE has been developed, including the application of needs assessment, community mapping, and identification, and targeting of at-risk groups to ensure that EORE is tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and sensitive to gender and age, disability and the diverse needs of different population groups and that international and local mine action organisations have been trained in all these requirements. Sudan further informed the Committee that EORE activities are mainstreamed in the school curriculum, and training of trainers will be conducted for teachers and community members in affected areas of Blue Nile, South Kordofan States and Darfur region for further dissemination of knowledge among population residing in proximity to contaminated areas.

Sudan further responded that plans are in place to institutionalize EORE in health sector, humanitarian, protection and development sectors, civil society organisations, Sudan Red Crescent Society, media platforms including through radio broadcasting and television, and establishing volunteers' networks within affected communities, and that mine risk education interventions will be regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure their effectiveness in the awareness raising and promotion of safe behaviour among the at-risk population. The Committee noted the importance of Sudan providing regular updates on its mine risk education and other risk education programmes in article 7 reports, including methodologies used, the challenges faced, and the results achieved.

The Committee wrote to Sudan requesting updated information on Sudan's effort to make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. Sudan responded by indicating that, as part of the regional mine action training centre, Sudan will establish a sustainable capacity within the structure of the National Mine Action Centre /Ministry of Defence to respond to EO contamination after declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations. Sudan also responded that a mine action hotline process is already established and the number is disseminated to the affected communities and as part of the risk education materials. The Committee noted the importance of Sudan ensuring that national strategies and work plan for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity and would welcome regular updates in this regard.

### **Concluding remarks**

In conclusion, in recalling that the implementation of Sudan's work plan is dependent upon the mobilization of significant international and national resources as well as access to mined areas, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Sudan submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2025 an updated detailed work plan the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee noted that this work plan should contain information on progress made, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request, a plan for mine risk education and a revised detailed budget.

The Committee noted that the information provided in the request and subsequently in responses to the Committee's questions is comprehensive, complete, and clear. The Committee noted that the plan presented by Sudan is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the progress of implementation. The Committee further noted that the plan's success is contingent on access to the remaining contaminated areas that are dependent upon improved security and progress of political dialogue, the need for stable national funding and the mobilisation of international resources, engagement with international stakeholders and the creation of an environment conducive for organisations involved in mine action activities. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Sudan reporting annually to the States Parties on the following:

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Sudan's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance) and disaggregated by type of contamination addressed;
- The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Sudan's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;
- The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes as well as by type of contamination;
- Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed manually and how priorities have been established;
- Progress in the development and approval of a costed and time-bound national strategy through inclusive consultations with women, girls boys and men and further updates on the timeline and process for the approval of its national strategy in this regard;

- Annual updates on changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively impact implementation;
- Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
- Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Sudan to support implementation efforts;
- Updates regarding the structure of Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion; and
- Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Sudan reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at Intersessional Meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.