



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 2022 Intersessional Meetings

June 2022

Statement on Article 5 Request Submitted by Guinea-Bissau

We commend Guinea-Bissau on the submission of their Article 5 extension request and for the transparent and accountable approach that they have taken to previously unknown suspected contamination. We also commend the inclusion of planning for residual contamination within the Director's presentation.

Sadly, almost half of extension granted by the 19th MSP has passed with none of the activities outlined for this year achieved. This is not because there are flaws in the plan. It is entirely down to a lack of funding assistance for what should be an uncontroversial and achievable set of activities.

This community has called for time-bound and costed workplans. We have called for national ownership. Guinea-Bissau has done exactly what States Parties and this community asked them to do.

Delegates, rolling extensions due to funding shortfalls are harmful not just for Guinea-Bissau, but for the entire Convention community.

International cooperation and assistance takes many forms and I am pleased that my colleagues in HALO, Humanity & Inclusion and MAG have been able to support the national authority with their planning and extension. But without international funding support, sadly there is only so much we can do.

ENDS