

GICHD remarks on APBMC Article 5 extension request submitted by Sudan

Intersessional meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention June 2022

The GICHD congratulates Sudan on presenting a comprehensive extension request that clearly outlines progress achieved to date, the remaining challenge and planned next steps for the requested extension. Overall, the request testifies to Sudan's strong commitment towards reaching art. 5 completion in a context of significant contamination and complex challenges. It also shows commendable progress in the areas of gender and diversity mainstreaming and EORE.

To help better assess Sudan's request, further information would be welcome on the following points.

First, Sudan indicates that the remaining challenge consists of 102 hazardous areas measuring about 13.3m sqm. Information provided on the planned land release milestones by year, however, presents a much higher figure of 32,9m sqm of land to be released by 2027. It is understood that survey activities in areas that become accessible due to improvements in the security situation are expected to result in the cancellation of areas identified in the initial Landmine Impact Survey and the identification of new hazardous ones. Nonetheless, the discrepancy is significant and more details on how this was calculated would be welcome.

Second, Sudan's stated goal to release an average of 4 mil sqm per year through technical survey and clearance seems ambitious based on past land release rates as well as projected assets and funding. To meet this goal, the productivity of TS and clearance would need to increase significantly, for example through a substantial increase in the number of teams and funding, or through an increase in average clearance rates due to methodology, innovation or increased efficiency. The request does not seem to indicate any significant changes on these aspects. Therefore, we would invite Sudan to clarify the basis for the expected yearly outputs.

On funding, Sudan could also usefully indicate whether the level of Government contribution allocated for the period 2019-2022 is foreseen to remain at the same level in the requested extension.

The GICHD commends Sudan for its efforts to raise awareness of the risks of explosive ordnance and promote safe behaviours, which have contributed to a "noticeable drop in the number of explosive ordnance victims" recorded over the last three years.

We particularly welcome the inclusion of a detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for EORE that is evidence-based, results-oriented and sensitive to gender and other diversity considerations. The target groups and areas are well-defined, the proposed activities are innovative and varied and, overall, the EORE work plan is in line with international standards, good practice and the actions set out in the OAP.

We also commend Sudan for explicitly articulating its commitment to gender and diversity mainstreaming in its extension request, in relation both to policies and standards and to inclusive operations across the board, in line with best practices for implementing the Convention.

We encourage Sudan to conduct a G&D needs assessment to support gender and diversity mainstreaming in the new extension and new strategy, and to help operationalise the commitment to social and economic inclusion of women, girls, boys and men from affected communities in line with **OAP actions #3, #29 and #33**.

More detailed comments and suggestions on risk education and gender and diversity have been conveyed to the ISU in writing.

Thank you