

Mr. President, distinguished delegates ladies and gentleman,

I would like to begin by congratulating you for commendable way of presiding the intersessional meeting and thank you also for giving the floor to my delegation I would like to assure you of our full support to your presidency.

Mr. president,

On 29 November 2019, the 19th Meeting of State Parties assessed the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 and agreed to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2025. Since then, Ethiopia has been annually provided reports to the State Parties on progress made in implementation during the extension period. In this context, my brief intervention therefore, focusses only on the main points achieved during the period in discussion.

Mr. President,

In its 2nd request for an extended deadline Ethiopia has made projections for the year when each of the remaining 261 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines would be released. In 2019-2025, it is projected that 35 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totaling 6,304,538 square meters and 226 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totaling 1,050,045,013 square meters to be released in six regions of the country.

In terms of clearing the mined areas as of 31 March 2022, Ethiopia was able to cancel and reduce 110 areas measuring 330 million square meters of which 46,600 Square meters reduced and 13,400 Square meters cancelled which results like

zone being declared complete in Somali region and previously suspected hazardous areas are now no longer suspected from anti-personnel mines threat and declare safe for social and development activities. In the course of carrying out the operations to clear these areas a total of 46 Anti-Tank mines (TM-57 type) were destroyed all the areas were released using manual clearance method. The remaining area to be addressed is 152 areas measuring 726,008,475 Square Meters will be part of the next plan until December 2025 however, much work to be done.

Mr. President,

As we all recall Ethiopia recently ended conflict in the northern parts of the country which indicates the presence of additional layer of Explosive Ordnance contamination requires to conduct a broad survey and the Ethiopia Mine Action office plans to employ advanced technical survey in different regions of the country and the recent peace agreement provides good opportunity for mine action particularly access to remote and affected areas. In this regard, I would like to also emphasize Ethiopia is in preparation to develop a new work plan that encompasses the current situation. Having said this, due access, capacity and human and financial resources constrains the likelihood of becoming mine free by the end of 2025 is impossible.

Despite clearance of 110 areas in 2022 several challenges still remain in our way to fulfill our commitment to make the territories in our jurisdiction free of mines. Some of the challenges are

First, As I mentioned earlier the recent conflict and political instability many areas across the country is inaccessible and very scattered to conduct comprehensive surveys and constrained our office to perform clearance operations as indicated during the extension request.

Second, it was expected that the government of Ethiopia and donors would continue to finance the humanitarian demining activities, which unfortunately still

continue to pose a critical challenge in demining activities however, some steps taken by the office to train the units to address this task, it still needs international support in terms of techniques and finance.

Despite these challenges, Ethiopia has made significant progress in its mine action efforts over the past decade. The country has established a national mine action center, the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), which is responsible for coordinating and implementing all mine action activities in the country.

Finally, Mr. president,

Ethiopia remains convinced that the main responsibility of completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention lies with the States Parties concerned. We must continue to work together to ensure that anti personal mines are never used again. we must also support victims and survivors to rebuild their lives. we looking forward to the continued constructive engagement with all stakeholders and we are also confident through collective efforts we will complete the clearance in reasonable period of time.

In addition, on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia my delegation would like to thank the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee on Article 5 implementation for their continued assistance to my country.

I thank you Mr. president

