
Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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Consideration of submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5**Analysis of the request submitted by Chad for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention****Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation: Colombia (Chair), Sweden, Thailand, and the United Kingdom***

1. Chad ratified the Convention on 6 May 1999, and the Convention entered into force for Chad on 1 November 1999. In its initial transparency report submitted on 29 April 2002, Chad reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Chad was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 November 2009. Since that time, Chad submitted requests for extension of its deadline to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) in 2008, the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) in 2010, the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) in 2013 and the Fourth Review Conference in 2019. On each occasion, the Meetings of the States Parties/Review Conference agreed unanimously to grant Chad its request for extension. The request for extension granted to Chad by the Fourth Review Conference was for 5 years, until 1 January 2025.

2. In granting Chad's request in 2019, the Fourth Review Conference noted that, "by requesting a five-year extension, Chad was projecting that it would need approximately five years from the date of submission of its request to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Fourth Review Conference further noted that a detailed annual work plan for survey and a plan for database clean-up was missing. The Conference welcomed Chad's commitment to updating its workplan to include more up-to-date information as well as its efforts to reorganize, strengthen and improve the working environment of the National High Commission for Demining (HCND).

3. On 16 June 2024, Chad submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation ("the Committee") a request for extension of its 1 January 2025 deadline. On 25 July 2024, the Committee wrote to Chad to request additional information and clarification. On 14 August 2024, Chad submitted to the Committee a revised request in response to the Committee's questions. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Chad submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee. Chad's request is for 5 years, until 1 January 2030.

4. The request recalls that Chad's understanding of its original challenge was derived from a Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) carried out in 1999, that the LIS data lacked precision on the location and perimeters of the affected areas and that in order to accurately identify the level of contamination and complement the LIS data, surveys began to be implemented by the HCND.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

5. The request recalls that the HCND also has in its possession 69 minefield maps of the Libyan army mainly covering the northern part of the country and that the work to translate these maps has not yet begun.

6. The request recalls that a nationwide technical survey was conducted in 2010-2012 and that in the framework of the PADEMIN project (Project d'appui au secteur du déminage au Tchad), further non-technical and technical surveys were carried out between 2014-2016 in the southern regions (Moyen Chari) and in the north (Borkou and Tibesti). From October 2017 to September 2021, additional non-technical and technical survey activities were conducted as part of the PRODECO project (Projet d'Appui au déminage, au développement et à la protection sociale des personnes vulnérables dans le Nord et l'Ouest du Tchad). The request indicates that risk areas in Chad are mainly located in 3 provinces in the north of the country (Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti) and that the mined areas located in the west and the east result from internal clashes between governmental force and rebels.

7. In its request submitted in 2019, Chad indicated that as a result of non-technical surveys conducted during the PADEMIN and PRODECO projects, a database clean-up was undertaken as a result of which 137 remaining mined areas were identified. The 137 mined areas measuring 111,978,042 square metres, included 39 mined areas in Borkou region, 1 in Chari-Baguirmi region, 7 in Ennedi region, 1 in Moyen Chari region, and 89 in Tibesti region. Only three areas seemed to be identified as confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), while 134 were assumed to be suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). In addition, the request submitted in 2019 indicated that 60 mined areas had been defined as needing additional survey.

8. The Committee recalled that in its previous request, Chad committed to conduct the following activities during the period of the extension: in Borkou Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 39 mined areas, from January 2020 to September 2021; in Chari-Baguirmi Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 1 mined area, from January to September 2021; in Ennedi Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 7 mined areas, from July 2020 to December 2024; in Moyen-Chari Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 1 mined area from January 2020 to September 2021; and in Tibesti Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 89 mined areas from January 2020 to December 2024, subject to the security situation being stable.

9. With respect to these commitments, the present request indicates that since 2019, a number of activities took place within the framework of the PRODECO project as well as projects funded by the Chadian government. The activities included surveys, mine risk education sessions, demining and land release as follows: 5,247,806.677 square metres were released by clearance, 1,013 809,162 square metres by technical survey and 20 areas totalling 2,279,560.800 square metres were cancelled. Elsewhere the request indicates that 13 mined areas were released measuring 1,116,363 square metres including 5 mined areas measuring 123,665 square metres through clearance, 2 mined areas measuring 59,452 square metres were reduced through technical survey, 6 mined areas measuring 71,070 square metres were cancelled and 4 areas totalling 267,230 square metres were released without mention of a method of release. The request also provides a list of 15 mined areas in Borkou where non-technical surveys were conducted since 2019, and 7 mined areas in Borkou and Ennedi West where clearance took place in 2020-2021. The request further indicates that in 2020-2021, 6 mined areas were cancelled in Borkou, 14 mined areas were cancelled in Moyen Chari and 4 mined areas were cancelled in Ennedi East/West.

10. The request also indicates that three projects were funded by the Chadian government, including two projects in Kanem totalling 38,380,143.396 square metres and one project in Ennedi-East totalling 785 square metres. The request further indicates that amongst the projects funded by Chad, the following were suspended by lack of financial resources: North Kanem and Soultoum in 2022 and Ennedi-East, Ennedi-West and Kouri-Bougoudi in 2023.

11. The Committee noted that, while it appeared that Chad had made efforts to comply with its commitments, information provided on progress made could be communicated with greater clarity and in an unequivocal manner, in particular clarity and full understanding would be increased if Chad had indicated which of the 137 remaining mined areas listed in the previous request have been released and the information presented in accordance with

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and addressed through clearance and the data disaggregated by year since 2020, province and type of contamination to the extent possible. The Committee noted the importance of providing clarity on the type of contamination addressed, in particular to confirm if the areas in question are solely contaminated by anti-personnel mines or other type of contamination such as explosive remnants of war (ERW). The Committee also highlighted discrepancies in the number of mined areas reported to have been addressed during the period since the last request. In this regard, the request would benefit from greater clarity on the progress made since the last request for extension.

12. The request indicates that a database cleanup was undertaken during the course of which 700 forms were verified and duplicates eliminated. The work undertaken enabled Chad to better define a reliable number of mined areas, i.e. 71 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs): 9 in Borkou, 11 in Ennedi West/East and 51 in the Tibesti - and 48 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs): 8 in Borkou, 2 in Ennedi East and West and 38 in the Tibesti. The request indicates that as of today Chad's database is estimated to be 85 % reliable.

13. The request indicates that the national demining structures in Chad have evolved as knowledge of the extent and consequences of the problem caused by the presence of mines has improved. The request recalls a previous reorganisation of the HCND and indicates that a new reform is being planned. The Committee wrote to Chad to request further information on the planned reform and how it would positively impact Chad implementation efforts. Chad responded by indicating that the reform included a) the reduction of non-productive staff or staff reaching retirement; b) recruitment of operational staff, and; c) training of operational staff in EOD1, EOD2 in Chad; EOD3 and Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) abroad.

14. The Committee wrote to Chad to request information in accordance with Action #26 of the Oslo Action Plan on provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. Chad responded by indicating that a *Multipurpose Intervention Unit* (Unité polyvalente d'intervention) existed and is responsible for residual contamination.

15. The request indicates that circumstances that impeded regular progress include: (a) lack of financial resources; (b) insufficient data collection and archiving; (c) adverse weather conditions; (d) need for survey of the Tibesti province; (f) poor road conditions, and; (g) insecurity with the high density of open-pit anti-tank and anti-personnel mines being used as a source of supply for non-state armed groups in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

16. The Committee wrote to Chad to request additional information on whether the IEDs identified in Chad are victim-activated and meet the definition of an anti-personnel mine or are vehicle-activated, command or time denoted devices, on the threat posed by these IEDs to the population and on efforts carried out to address this threat. Chad responded by indicating that IEDs are activated voluntarily by suicide bombers and also by remotely controlled actions. The Committee highlighted the importance of Chad reporting on its efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention also to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, including during survey and clearance in the fulfilment of Article 5, as well as the importance of Chad disaggregating by type of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.

17. The request indicates a remaining challenge of 139 areas 119 mined areas measuring 77,615,244.646 square metres located in 3 regions of Chad, including 17 mined areas in Borkou region, 13 mined areas in Ennedi region and 89 mined areas in Tibesti region including 71 CHAs and 48 SHAs . The request further indicates that two additional areas waiting to be surveyed were discovered in 2023 in Ennedi-East and that the Tibesti province requires further survey. In addition to mined areas, the request mentions that 20 other areas measuring 177,954,729.632 square metres are contaminated by explosive remnants of war in Borkou, Ennedi, Kanem Ouaddaï, Salamat, Sila, Tibesti and Wadi Fira provinces.

18. The Committee noted that the full extent of the challenge faced by Chad is still unknown. The Committee noted that it would be beneficial if Chad could provide a detailed plan with concrete milestones relating to the planned survey activities.

19. While the number of persons injured by anti-personnel mines considerably diminished during the fourth extension period (37 injured), the request indicates that anti-personnel mines continue to have humanitarian, and socio-economic impacts in Chad. The request indicates that anti-personnel mines act as a barrier to pasture lands, water sources, mining research, coastal access for the development of small scale fisheries, urban growth and tourism. The Committee noted that the ongoing effort to implement Article 5 during the requested extension period had the potential of making a significant additional contribution to improving human safety and socio-economic conditions in Chad.

20. The request contains a work plan and budget for the period 2025-2029. The request indicates that despite access and security issues, the Tibesti province, which is the most contaminated by anti-personnel mines, remains a priority for the development efforts of the government. The Committee noted that access to the Tibesti region continues to be dependent on the security situation and highlighted the importance of Chad continuing to report changes on the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

21. The work plan indicates that Chad will address the following areas: (a) between February 2025 and March 2029, 17 mined areas in the Borkou province; (b) between April 2025 and August 2029, 13 mined areas in the Ennedi province and; (c) between March 2025 and November 2029, 89 mined areas in the Tibesti region dependent on the security situation. The work plan also indicates that Chad will address a number of areas affected by explosive remnants of war during the period of the extension. The Committee highlighted the need to provide clarity in the plan by disaggregating activities relating to mined areas and areas affected by explosive remnants of war. The Committee also highlighted the need to provide clarity in the plan by disaggregating by activities planned (non-technical survey, technical survey, clearance) and by time period in the three affected provinces.

22. The work plan also indicates that risk education sessions and training of beneficiaries will take place three times a year in each province during the period of the extension. The Committee noted the importance of the work plan containing a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.

23. The request indicates that the work plan is based on the following assumptions: (a) a proper functioning of the IMSMA database; (b) an increase in the training capacity of national staff; (c) the establishment of a resource mobilisation strategy for survey activities in Tibesti; (d) the conduct of additional technical survey in areas where information is missing (i.e., North and South of the country) and; (e) the consideration of a number of constraints which can slow down or stop operations (e.g., sand storms, high temperatures and insecurity).

24. The request indicates that the provisional budget for the period of the extension request totals US\$ 63,086,367, including US\$ 50,175,700 for operations and capacity building. The provisional budget also includes US\$ 294,000 for the acquisition of equipment, US\$ 11,066,667 for the salaries and operational costs of the HCND staff and US\$ 1,550,000 for risk education and victim assistance activities. The Committee noted that the provisional budget provided a breakdown of costs by activity and highlighted that the inclusion of this information in the request will benefit Chad's resource mobilisation efforts.

25. The request indicates that Chad provides an annual contribution for staff salaries, operating costs of the HCND and mine clearance / battle area clearance activities. The request further indicates that Chad's contribution for 2024 totals US\$ 1,522,456. The Committee wrote to Chad to request information on activities covered by the national contribution and those for which international assistance would be required. Chad responded to the Committee by indicating that the national contribution over the next five years will only be able to support the payment of salaries and the operating costs of the HCND totalling 11,066,667 US\$ and highlighted that Chad's contribution to mine clearance/battle area clearance activities does not go beyond US\$ 499,667.15.

26. The request indicates that two donor meetings, one in Cameroon one in the Gulf, are planned in support of the national demining programme. The request further indicates that several actions will be organised during the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action to take stock of mine action in Chad to which United Nations

entities, diplomatic representations, banking institutions and international organisations will be invited. The Committee wrote to Chad to request additional information on the donor meetings as well as on Chad's resource mobilisation strategy. Chad responded that démarches have been undertaken but that to date there has been no concrete responses, therefore it is difficult to confirm any outcome.

27. The Committee noted that while Chad had made significant efforts to comply with the commitments it had made to clarify the true remaining extent of its challenge, accurate and coherent data on which to base a sound plan leading to completion was still missing. The Committee noted that while it would appear that Chad possesses more knowledge than it did in 2019 about the remaining extent of the challenge, work remains to remove inconsistencies in the data provided. The Committee noted that Chad's plan is ambitious and clearly states which factors could affect implementation and that it depends on a sizable amount of external funding. In this context, the Committee noted the importance of Chad developing a resource mobilisation strategy to support its efforts during the period of the extension.

28. In recalling that the request contains a work plan for the period of the extension request, and that the plan will be affected by changes to the security situation, the impact of results from survey activities, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Chad submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2025 and by 30 April 2027, for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee noted that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget.

29. The Committee further noted that the Convention would benefit from Chad reporting annually by 30 April to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Chad's work plan with progress in survey and clearance presented in a manner consistent with IMAS and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);

(b) The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Chad's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation, including adjusted annual milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;

(c) The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, by disaggregating by 'suspect hazardous areas', and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size including by disaggregating between the type of contamination to ensure increased clarity on the remaining challenges;

(d) Progress on efforts to apply all provisions and obligations of the Convention also to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, and to disaggregate information by type of mines;

(e) Updated information on the full range of practical methods used to release land, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems;

(f) Efforts to ensure consideration for the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities as well as climate and environmental considerations in the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Progress in implementation of mine risk education and reduction activities in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced, and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

(h) The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of contamination including information on victims disaggregated by gender and age;

(i) Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Chad to support implementation efforts;

(j) Updates on changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation; and

(k) Updates regarding the changes in the structure of Chad's mine action programme, in particular the HCND.

30. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Chad 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, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.

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