Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Zimbabwe

Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Algeria, Norway, Thailand (Chair) and the United Kingdom)

The Committee welcomes Zimbabwe's commitment to ensure continued implementation of the Convention and its obligations. In this regard, the Committee welcomes Zimbabwe's submission of its Request for Extension of its Article 5 deadline. In order for the Committee to fulfil its mandate of preparing an analysis of the Request, the Committee would welcome additional information and clarification of the information provided by Zimbabwe in its Request for Extension.

1. The Request includes information on progress made during the current Extension period. The Request would benefit from the addition of a table, similar to Table 8, detailing progress made on an annual basis throughout the entire period of the current Extension, including the specific types of mines destroyed on an annual basis.

Summary of Progress Made – Jan 2018 - Dec 2024

Year	Total area known to contain anti-personnel mines at the end of the year	Area cleared (in m²)	Area cancelled through NTS (in m²)	Area reduced through TS (in m²)	Total area released (in m²)	Additional area (in m²)	Mines destroyed
2018	52,637,535	2,112,340	693,523	6,646,257	9,452,120	295,665	22,013
2019	42,690,666	2,759,476	466,419	8,590,447	11,816,342	1,869,473	39,015
2020	34,116,225	2,410,672	28,947	8,105,935	10,545,554	1,969,113	26,911
2021	23,507,427	2,440,425	5,674,052	3,167,116	11,281,593	448,734	26,457
2022	18,302,728	2,132,501	1,917,880	2,065,148	6,115,529	910,830	31,104

2023	16,164,297	1,907,436	19,806	378,004	2,305,246	166,815	37,330
2024	11,999,499	1,947,974	0	2,440,198	4,388,172	1,213,829	31,630
Total		**15,625,681**	**8,800,627**	**31,397,905**	**55,819,413**	**6,024,922**	**213,924**

2. The Request would benefit from clarifying the discrepancy of 990,455 square meters between the stated remaining contamination (11,009,044 square meters) and the figure stated in the Request (11,999,499 square meters as of 31 December 2024) by including a summary table containing the following elements:

- Mined areas remaining at the start of the fifth Extension Request (Jan 2018)
- Total land released between 2018 and December 2024
- Previously unrecorded contamination added to the database during the same period
- Mined areas remaining to be addressed as of 31 December 2024

Total area at start of 5th Extension Request: 61,793,990 square meters
Released during the Extension period: 55,819,413 square meters
Additional areas as per annex C: 5,034,467 square meters
Total area remaining based on the above: 11,009,044 square meters

The area stated in the Request: 11,999,499 square meters
Creating a discrepancy of: *990,455 square meters*

Activity	Square meters (m^2)	Remarks
Total area at start of 5th Extension Request	61,793,990	
Released during the Extension period	55,819,413	
Additional areas as per annex C	6,024,922	
Total area remaining	11,999,499	

The correct figure for additional areas must read 6,024,922 m^2, the discrepancy was due to omission of 990,455m^2 additional area for NMCU, which was not reported in the year 2024, and however, it was discovered after staging in IMSMA.

3. The Request would benefit from Zimbabwe elaborating on how the complexity of the remaining contamination—such as difficult terrain, high vegetation, and metal contamination—has been factored into the annual land release projections, and how this may impact the efficiency and accuracy of the projected outputs.

a. Difficult terrain

(i). Accessibility Issues: Steep slopes, rocky surfaces and uneven ground can hinder the movement of demining teams and equipment thereby slowing down the clearance process. Difficult terrain can make it hard to transport personnel and equipment thereby increasing cost and reducing efficiency. There is much consideration to be taken on route planning, resource allocation, deployment time and increased risk

(ii). Operational Challenges: Specialized equipment may be required for terrain that is hard to navigate thus increasing costs and time for operations.

b. Thick Vegetation

(i) Visibility and Detection: Dense vegetation can obscure the ground making it challenging to detect mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) through visual or manual methods.

(ii) Increased Time for Clearance: Teams may need to clear vegetation before conducting surveys, adding extra time and labour to the process.

c. Metal Contamination

(i) Interference with Detection Devices: High levels of metal contamination can create "clutter" that interferes with the sensitivity of mine detection equipment leading to extended search times.

4. The Request would benefit from including more details about Zimbabwe's operational capacity used to create the work plan in Table 13. It should also clarify whether this capacity reflects recent reductions due to lower international funding, such as APOPO leaving and MAG reducing its demining staff. If relevant, the Request would benefit from indicating whether any tasks will be moved to other operators. The figures enshrined in Table 13 reflect the recent capacities. Tasks lagging behind shall be re-allocated to other operators depending on the strength and capacity to do the work eg APOPO tasks were re-allocated to NMCU.

5. The Request would further benefit from additional information concerning the figures used to develop the land release projections as well as on how these projections were calculated, such as average square metres cleared per day, number of operational days (accounting for weather and other factors), workforce composition (e.g., deminers, MDDs, mechanical assets), and the varying conditions across different minefields.

The calculations for both operators were based on type of minefields being worked on, number of operational days, output per organisation per month, assets employed for LR and the existing capacities. On average a deminer produces 40m^2 per day, MDD output 250m^2 per day per dog while mechanical clearance account for 400m^2 per one mechanical team per day. On average Zimbabwe's programme has 21 days per month constituting to 195 working days for the ten (10) operational months. One manual team consist of 9 deminers, MDD team comprises of six (6) dogs with six (6) handlers assisted by three (3) manual deminers. Mechanical team comprises of four (4) operators.

6. The Request would benefit from providing an approximate breakdown of how much of the remaining contaminated area is expected to be addressed through cancellation via non-technical survey, reduction via technical survey, and full clearance during the Extension period, based on planning assumptions and previous experience.

Ser	Organisation	Clearance (%)	Reduction (%)	Cancellation (%)	Remarks
a.	MAG	65	35	-	
b.	NPA	11.6	88.4	-	
c.	HALO Trust	54	45	1	
d.	NMCU	75	25	-	

The percentages are based on the current minefields that may change in future

7. The Request would benefit from clarity on why the projected clearance rates for operators such as MAG and HALO remain constant or decline post-2025, despite significant increases in their projected annual funding, and how this aligns with the expected operational outputs. The clearance rates declined post 2025 as operators had an anticipation of staff reduction during the current year and maintain the same staff for the remainder of the extension hence the rates were constant.

8. The Request would benefit from further information on the projection that NPA will clear 2,500,000 square meters in 2025, given its capacity of 80 deminers and the limited potential for cancellation or reduction in densely mined areas, especially when compared to the combined output of HALO, MAG, and NMCU with a larger workforce. NPA is now working on less densely mined areas (ploughshare minefield) and it's the only operator employing MDDs in clearance. Given the clearance methodology employed in ploughshare minefield, there is going to be more reduction.

9. The Request would benefit from providing clarity on the planned land release methodology, including whether re-survey through non-technical survey will be routinely conducted prior to technical survey and clearance operations, and

whether this approach is standardized across all operators. There will be no further re-surveys through NTS on all tasks. A standardised approach for all operators has been designed where TS lanes/cut lanes will be used to breach across the minefield depth. Once all mine lanes are established, deminers then follow the hazard therefore, the area uncleared will be released through reduction.

10. The Request would benefit from providing further detail on how different land release methods—such as technical survey, full clearance, and the potential use of Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs)—are selected and applied to enhance operational efficiency and explain the rationale behind the decision not to allow cancellation of suspected hazardous areas. Zimbabwe does not have any suspected hazardous areas under its jurisdiction. Land release methodologies are selected based on the type of minefield being worked on eg the cordon sanitare requires full clearance and this is allocated to manual and mechanical clearances whilst ploughshare minefields require employment of TS, full and targeted clearance, hence the use of MDDs. Dogs are normally employed on fairly open and flat ground whilst manual clearance is reserved for thickly vegetated steep slope areas.

11. The Request would benefit from including a detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year work plans for mine risk education for the Extension period which takes into consideration gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities, including mine survivors. The Request would benefit from providing information on how these programmes are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and prioritise people most at risk by ensuring that these programmes are developed on an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, climate and environmental risk, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. Before starting Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions, Zimbabwe consults extensively with local stakeholders, including relevant authorities, to gain a comprehensive understanding of landmine contamination and its socio-economic effects. They then perform a community-level needs assessment using a triangulation approach to verify data. This includes pre-focus group discussions that collect both qualitative and quantitative data. The assessment results identify varying risk levels among communities, allowing Zimbabwe to prioritize interventions for those most impacted by explosive ordnance and unsafe practices in hazardous areas.

As part of its EORE needs assessment, Zimbabwe conducts Mine Action Impact Assessments and Non-Technical Surveys to collect data on explosive ordnance accidents and identify survivor demographics. By recording accident locations, Zimbabwe creates a detailed mapping of incidents. High concentrations of accidents indicate communities where unsafe behaviours are prevalent. Consequently, Zimbabwe will then prioritizes EORE sessions in these areas, using the accident data to inform strategic planning and resource allocation. This data-driven approach ensures that risk education efforts are targeted effectively where they are needed most within Zimbabwe's area of jurisdiction.

Zimbabwe uses its Green Field Tool to evaluate the effect of its activities on the Climate and environment in our area of operations, and this is done in all stages of our work, i.e. Pre and Post Impact Assessment as well as at the start of clearance activities.

Ser	Organisation	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Sessions
a.	MAG	220	214	600	582	1616	96
b.	HALO Trust	464	284	1125	892	2765	36
c.	NPA	91	77	112	98	378	60
d.	NMCU	285	185	400	280	1150	20

These figures are based on the current annual calculations. For the coming years, it is expected the same capacity would be maintained, reaching similar targets. Based on previous EORE sessions estimated cost for all operators' stands at $150,000 per year. This figure vary and may increase slightly with inflation from year to year while some operators include EORE funds under the umbrella of operations which include NTS, impact assessment, EOD spot tasks and data collection.

12. The Request would benefit from clarifying the reporting mechanisms to be put in place for newly identified contamination, including how members of the public can report suspected hazardous items. Additionally, the Request

would benefit from further outlining the roles of key stakeholders—such as provincial and district councils, the police, and civil defence authorities—in supporting residual risk management and response efforts. An individual who identify suspected hazardous items will physically report to the nearest police camp who in turn will notify the army. All provinces have army engineers responsible for dealing with these explosive items. The local community is taught this procedure during the EORE sessions.

13. The Request would benefit from increased clarity on if the NMCU's equipment costs are included in the annual $0.5 million government funding shown in Table 3 and Annex B, or if they are extra. The Request would also benefit from including increased clarity on the total funding needed to fully equip the unit, the timeline, and whether national funds are enough or if international support is needed and outline steps to ensure the unit is properly equipped to handle remaining contamination. The $0.5 million enshrined in Table 3 does not include equipment cost for NMCU. This is budgeted for as and when it's necessary. The government of Zimbabwe has a procurement process within the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (PPDPA Chapter 22:23), which regulates all procurement activities. However, any international support in form of demining equipment towards NMCU will be greatly appreciated.

14. The Request would benefit from clarity concerning how much funding has already been secured and what additional resources and operational capacity would be required to implement the work plan within the five-year Extension period, particularly in light of the projected funding shortfalls and the anticipated delay in completing the minefield shared by NPA, MAG, and HALO.

Ser	Organisation	Funding Required (USD)	Funding Secured (USD)	Shortfall (USD)	Remarks
a.	MAG	$22.3 million	$1.52 million	$20.78 million	
b.	HALO Trust	$28.24 million	$7.03 million	$21.21 million	
c.	NPA	$14.76 million	$3.97 million	$10.79 million	
d.	NMCU	$3 million	$3 million	Nill	
e.	**TOTAL**	**$68.3 million**	**$15.52 million**	**$52.78 million**	

Currently MAG has $1,517,055. If the FCDO funding remains at current level (with small increase each year to account for inflation), MAG would require an estimated additional $1.5 million (with yearly increase) to increase capacity from 4 to 6 manual teams. One team will be reduced during the course of 2025 and completion of the southern Reinforced ploughshare minefield section of the Area of Operations (AoO) is earmarked for the end of 2030.

NPA anticipate the amount of $3.13 million annually with potential increase from its donors. If additional funds are available, NPA's aim is to increase from 6 to 10 manual teams and to add 4 more MDDs.

To finish the AoO in 5 years HALO Trust would need an average of 16 Manual teams per year, which results in an uplift of funding by $1,371,328 per year. To complete the target HALO Trust would need $4,737,942.5 annually.

The Government of Zimbabwe will continue to fund the NMCU programme at $0.5 million on yearly bases.

15. Likewise, the Request would benefit from providing a clearer breakdown of the financial resources required for the Extension period, distinguishing between contributions from the national government and those expected to be mobilized through international assistance, as referenced in Table 3. Currently the national government is committed to contribute $3 million, however, this figure is likely to increase if funds permit. The remaining $65.3 million will be mobilised through international assistance. Currently the country has managed to secure $15.52 million. The shortfall for the international organisations stands at $52.78 million. The table below shows the funding for survey and clearance operations only, stating what has been secured and the shortfalls to cover up to 2030.

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE FUNDING

Ser	Organisation	Funding Required (USD)	Funding Secured (USD)	Shortfall (USD)	Remarks
a.	MAG	$20.07 million	$1.45 million	$18.62 million	
b.	HALO Trust	$25.42 million	$6.33 million	19.09 million	

c.	NPA	$12 million	$3.6 million	$8.4 million	
d.	NMCU	$3 million	$3 million	Nil	
e.	Total	**$60.49 million**	**$14.38 million**	**$46.11 million**	

16. In light of the reduction in funding and its impact on demining capacity, the Request would benefit from information on planned or proposed resource mobilization activities or dialogues during the Extension period, and indicate any specific support needed to formulate or implement these efforts. The Request would also benefit from additional information on the operational capacity (e.g., number of deminers, Mine Detection Dogs, mechanical assets), average clearance rates, and other planning assumptions that were used to arrive at the five-year timeline for completion. Zimbabwe will continue to engage international stakeholders for assistance. The country proposes to conduct individualised approaches on each and every international meeting that will be held. Refer to Annex B of the Extension Request for the table below.

Organisation	Deminers	MDD Teams	Mechanical
HALO Trust	133	Nil	01 (4 operators)
NPA	80	1 (4 deminers)	Nil
MAG	27	Nil	Nil
NMCU	112	Nil	01 (2 operators)
Total		1	1

17. The Request would benefit from information on the factors contributing to the projected increase in the average cost per square metre of land release—from approximately $2.50 in 2025 to an average of $7.50 between 2026 and 2030, with some operators estimating costs as high as $14/square meters. It would be helpful to understand the underlying assumptions or operational changes that may be influencing these projections. The average cost per square meter is obtained through calculating average cost for the past three (3) years per team per month divided by average

square meter per team per month. The formula used is survey and clearance budget divided by cleared area. Note that the cost differs depending on the type of the minefield. Additionally, for the cost to be realistic operational support factors such as PPE, vehicles, fuel, etc must be factored in. On average, the cost per square meter is $7.20 based on previous years.

18. The Request would benefit from clarifying if the total figure of USD $68.3 million in Table 3 represent the anticipated cost of all activities proposed to fulfil Zimbabwe's Article 5 obligations, including Explosive Ordinance Reduction Education. Yes, the figure mentioned above covers all mine action pillars. However, the majority of funding is allocated for survey and clearance.

19. The Request would benefit from clarifying whether there are plans to integrate the revised Zimbabwe National Mine Action Strategic Plan into the forthcoming National Development Plan for 2026 and provide further information on how mine action is being aligned with broader national development priorities to ensure sustained support during the Extension period and beyond. The country is seeking an extension request up to 2030, the revised strategic plan shall be integrated into the 2026-2030 national development plan. Mine Action is being drafted into the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2 that will see it being aligned with broader national development priorities. NDS 2 should be finalised latest by the end of 2025 to commence implementation in 2026.

20. The Request would benefit from Zimbabwe providing specific examples of environmental protection measures currently being implemented or planned by ZIMAC and its implementing partners during the proposed Extension period and explain how these align with the updated IMAS 7.13 on environmental management. The country always minimises deforestation in most of the areas that are manually cleared, however, on mechanically cleared portions tree plantations are on cards. These trees will be exotic and indigenous fruit trees such as mangoes and guavas. Additionally, operators have resorted to use green energy.

21. The Request would benefit from providing details on the National Stakeholders Dialogue (NSD) meetings held during the current Extension period, including any plans for future NSDs, and highlight the role of regular coordination mechanisms such as strategic and technical working group meetings between ZIMAC and operators. During the current

extension, Zimbabwe held two of NSDs. These dialogues played an important role in mobilising new donors to come on board. The role of regular coordination mechanisms such as strategic and technical working group meetings between ZIMAC and operators has managed to bring in new donors such as the Germans through the GFFO. The technical working groups are there to align the Zimbabwe National Standards (ZNMAS) with the IMAS taking into consideration the country's context. These meetings have developed an excellent working relationship between ZIMAC and it's stakeholders. All parties take these meetings as an opportunity to question and be questioned on ways of working, thus bringing a positive sharing of techniques and procedures for mutual learning.

22. The Request would benefit from including any efforts to disseminate its national experiences and good practices in mine action with other affected States Parties, particularly in the areas of coordination and collaboration with implementing partners. Zimbabwe hosted other affected States Parties like Angola and Ethiopia in 2024 and 2025 respectively and the country is on the verge of hosting Guinea Bissau in September 2025. Zimbabwe will continue to host affected state parties for benchmarking visits where it disseminates information to its counterparts on how to deal with international operators thereby creating a favourable ground for the operators to conduct their duties.

23. The Request would benefit from Zimbabwe providing detailed information on how it intends to mainstream gender and diversity considerations across all areas of mine action—particularly in survey and clearance operations—during the Extension period. In particular, if Zimbabwe plans to develop a formal gender and diversity policy for mine action and, if so, the proposed timeline for its development.

Ser	GENDER	MAG	HALO Trust	NPA	NMCU	Total
a.	FEMALE	22	36	50		
b.	TOTAL STAFF	48	154	127		

This policy seeks all sectors in country to tackle issues related to discrimination, advocate for women empowerment and provide a supportive environment for equal participation. Mine action is under this umbrella framework. In June 2025,

ZIMAC accredited two female dog handlers an indication of ongoing efforts in gender and diversity. Inclusion of women in our mine action activities is an ongoing activity.

24. The Request would benefit from additional information on how Zimbabwe has ensured that both men and women from affected communities are equally informed and involved in mine action activities and on the steps taken to ensure that mine risk education and victim assistance programs are inclusive and accessible to all segments of the population, including women, children, and persons with disabilities. What specific measures will be incorporated into the updated national mine action strategy to promote inclusive participation and ensure the protection of vulnerable groups. EORE sessions conducted by operators are message tailored. Additionally, in Zimbabwe, people living with disabilities are catered for by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) under the department of Disability Affairs. This department ensures that victim assistance programmes are inclusive and accessible to all age groups and gender. In this regard explosive ordnance victims are considered under this department in liaison with ZIMAC, as the custodian of explosive ordnance victims database, which information is then forwarded to the MoPSLSW for inclusion into the national database. A proper survey for explosive ordnance victims is still outstanding. Conducting the National survey will go a long way to assist in updating the national database and come up with specific projects to promote inclusive participation and ensure the protection of vulnerable groups.

25. The Request would benefit from addressing the discrepancy between the casualty figures reported in Table 5 and Table 14 for 2024 and confirm whether the 10 casualties referenced were all victims of anti-personnel mines. Yes, the 10 casualties were incurred during demining operations. Table below contains the detailed information for 2024 mine victims.

Mines and ERW Victims 2024

Ser	Date of injury	Location	Age	Device Type	Activity at time of injury	Person status and Gender	Status
01	06/06/2024	Mashonaland East- Mudzi - Ward 16	42	Mine	Demining	Female deminer	Injured
02	11/09/24	Mashonaland East- Mudzi - Ward 12	43	Mine	Demining	Male Deminer	Injured

03	19/03/24	Mashonaland Central – Rushinga– Ward 20	46	Mine	Demining	Female team leader	Injured
04	24/04/2024	Mashonaland Central - Rushinga-Ward 2	Nil	Mine	Demining	Male Deminer	Injured
05	20/05/2024	Mashonaland Central – Rushinga – Ward 22	33	Mine	Demining	Male Deminer	Injured
06	20/05/2024	Mashonaland Central-Ward 22	40	Mine	Demining	Male Deminer	Injured
07	07/10/2024	Mashonaland—Central-ward 1	38	Mine	Demining	Male Deminer	Injured
08	21/10/2024	Mashonaland Central ward 1	41	Mine	Demining	Male Deminer	Injured
09	12/01/2024	Mashonaland Central-Rushinga -Ward1	33	Mine	Demining	Male Deminer	Injured
10	02/05/2024	Mash Central -Rushinga-Ward21	45	Mine	Demining	Male Deminer	Injured