

ICBL Comments on Ethiopia's Article 5 Extension Request
Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Meeting, Geneva 17-20 June 2025

Thank you, Chair.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines thanks Ethiopia for its request and is pleased to provide the following comments.

The recent increase in mine and ERW casualties highlights the severe human impact of contamination, particularly in Tigray and Afar regions, where civilians are forced to use contaminated land for survival - resulting in ongoing accidents and trauma.

While some progress has been made and recent clearance data suggests Ethiopia is beginning to apply IMAS-based land release methodology, the overall pace remains slow, and the extension request suffers from inconsistencies and unclear terminology.

The work plan lacks precision, with some overlapping and contradictory information about what will be surveyed, cleared, and when. Ethiopia plans to survey 147 areas over two years, but it is not always clear what this entails or how it connects to the known contamination. A more structured and transparent plan is urgently needed.

The budget is relatively detailed for the first two years, amounting to over \$13 million, but clarity is lacking regarding what funding is secured and what remains unfunded. A total of over \$30 million is needed, with 10% reportedly coming from the state, yet the breakdown of contributions for the critical initial survey period is not provided.

Risk education is included in the budget and the two-year plan and includes beneficiary targets, but the figures are not disaggregated by year.

Finally, the absence of a resource mobilization plan is a key concern - particularly if funds for the first two years are not yet fully secured. Ethiopia states it will submit such a plan by December 2027, but this should come much earlier.

Concluding, Ethiopia should revise its request to provide a much clearer, region-specific and IMAS-aligned work plan, specify the status of current funding, and outline a concrete strategy to mobilize the resources required.

Thank you.