

**ICBL comments on South Sudan's Extension Request**  
*Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Meeting, Geneva 17-20 June 2025*

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Thank you, Chair.

The ICBL thanks South Sudan for its extension request presented today. We acknowledge the progress made by South Sudan under extremely challenging circumstances and appreciate its commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty.

We note that while reported mine-related incidents are currently low, this is almost certainly an underestimation, given significant barriers to access, ongoing conflict, and widespread displacement. Mine contamination continues to pose a serious threat to life, access to essential services, and the safe use of land—particularly agricultural areas, water sources, and public infrastructure.

South Sudan's extension request demonstrates a commendable level of urgency and ambition, with a holistic approach to addressing all explosive threats, not just antipersonnel mines. The detailed work plan is grounded in experience and provides realistic clearance rates, resource estimates, and regional breakdowns. However, we urge greater transparency regarding task prioritization and the anticipated humanitarian and socio-economic impact of cleared land.

We welcome the integration of risk education efforts, but note with concern the lack of a standalone, detailed risk education strategy and dedicated budget, as required by the SRAAP. Given the limitations of marking and the high risk to civilians, this must be urgently addressed.

Finally, while the extension request includes a solid financial plan based on past performance, it falls short of outlining proactive fundraising efforts or contingency measures in the event of funding shortfalls. The sustainability of the plan will depend on such preparedness.

We urge the international community to continue supporting South Sudan, and we encourage the government to enhance transparency, prioritization, and planning to ensure the achievement of its 2030 clearance goal.

Thank you, Chair.