

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

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Thank you, Chair.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines would like thank Zimbabwe for its request and has the following comments to share.

Landmines in Zimbabwe continue to pose a real threat to people living near contaminated border areas, especially rural farmers who risk entering minefields for daily survival needs such as livestock recovery, water access, and grazing. Casualties are still reported each year, and the impact is worsened by limited healthcare access in affected regions.

Zimbabwe has completed surveys of all contaminated areas, giving a clear picture of what remains to be done. The government has demonstrated strong national ownership, including an annual contribution of \$500,000 to mine action. However, progress is increasingly hindered by a decline in international funding, including the halt of US support.

Zimbabwe has presented a multi-year, costed workplan, including operator-specific land release targets and financial needs. Yet, it remains unclear how much of the required \$68.3 million is currently secured. The plan is based on existing capacity and may need yearly revisions, but some clearance—particularly in one large minefield—already appears unlikely to be completed by 2030 unless additional funding is found.

Risk education is addressed through various outreach strategies, but there is no detailed, costed, multi-year plan as required by SRAAP, to support these efforts. Zimbabwe should be encouraged to develop such a plan and outline the roles and responsibilities of operators in delivering risk education.

While the budget is detailed and explains the higher cost per square meter due to challenging terrain, the request lacks a concrete resource mobilization strategy. Zimbabwe should clarify the status of government support for the full five-year period and outline how it intends to fill remaining funding gaps. Strong national commitment is evident, but sustained support and a clearer funding plan will be essential for Zimbabwe to meet its clearance goals.

Thank you.