



Anti -Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Intersessional Meeting

Geneva, 17 – 20 June 2025

Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia on Article 5 Implementation

Presented by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle (Director General of SEMA)

Excellences, distinguished colleagues, ladies, and gentlemen, good morning. On behalf of the government of Somalia, I am honored to get this opportunity to provide a progress update on the implementation of Article 5 since the last meeting in June 2024.

1. Article 5 implementation progress made since last update

Since last update on Somalia' s Article 5 implementation, Somalia continues making progress on clearance with the support from the remaining operators in county mainly The HALO Trust. **Over this period,** the teams: **Cleared** more than 600,000m2 of **minefields**, close to 4 million m2 **battle areas** and **removed** 7 x Anti-personnel mines, 17 x Anti-vehicle mines, more than 9,000 items of unexploded ordnance, and close to 12,000 items of Small Army Ammunition.

2. Status of Somalia's meeting art.5 obligations and remaining work needed to achieve full compliance with obligations and implementation plan.

Explosive ordnance, including IEDs are still causing an unprecedented number of casualties amongst the civilian populations. Since the last Intersessional Meeting in (June 2024 to date) 297 civilian casualties have been affected as a result of IED incidents, of which 107 civilian fatalities and 190 civilians injured that accounted for over 46% of all IED-related casualties recorded across Somalia. Over the same period, certain ERW accidents were also reported affecting civilians across the regions. Sadly, majority of the victims were children. Compared to the public suffrage, there is minimal intervention on Victim Assistance dominantly due to limited funding situation to the pillar.

The Article 5 work plan will thus focus mainly on awareness to the civilian population along with NTS to release land through an evidence-based decision-making process, to determine with confidence, which land needs further action. There is a mixed nature of contamination in Somalia, and the survey of suspected anti-personnel mine contamination will be prioritised simultaneously with other contamination types. Implementation of the work plan will consider the differing needs of the potential beneficiaries and their voice is heard to gather more inclusive data and benefit from the awareness sessions. This plan will consider potential fresh contaminations in the newly recovered areas.

3. challenges for the provision of external assistance and priorities.

The humanitarian mine action partners in Somalia have seriously been affected by the recurring global funding shortage, which many of them were forced to reduce capacity or cease operations and leave the country - only one international NGO that is Halo Trust and another one local NGO remained active at the moment. The MoIS, as a line ministry for the mine action, is exerting efforts to get SEMA into the Government budget and submitted the Mine Action Legislation to the Federal Parliament of Somalia for final approval. Considering the current global situation, resource mobilisation will remain our top priority advocating for the implementation of the Article 5 in line with Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP).

4. activities related to mine risk education (EORE) and reduction

In parallel to the other mine action activities, the operators in Somalia continued providing EORE to the communities across the regions. In collaboration with the partners in country, Somalia has recently started providing IED awareness to the vulnerable civilian population in urban areas and settlements along key supply routes that are suspected to IED incidents. Since the last MSP meeting update, the risk education teams delivered 3,404 sessions reaching out 36,953 beneficiaries that include children and adults.

5. Conclusion:

On behalf of the Government of Somalia, I extend our gratitude to the people and governments of donor countries, including the **People' s Republic of China** Japan, the United Kingdom, Norway, EU countries, Germany, the United States, , UNDP and UNMAS until now for their contributions to the mine action program in Somalia. This support is more critical than ever as Somalia Government eliminating by Alshab and Al-qaida from its territory.

I would also like to express deep appreciation for the GICHD, ISU and the Mine Action Operators in the country and the UNMAS, as well as the brave men and women conducting demining activities and risking their lives to save others. We encourage their continued support and look forward to their partnership as we work towards a Somalia free of mines and cluster munitions.

Thank You!