

Convention on Cluster Munitions

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English

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Item 10 (i) of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of matters pertaining to State party submissions
under articles 3 and 4**

Declaration of compliance with article 4.1 (a) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Submitted by Mauritania

I. Declaration of compliance

1. On 9 September 2013, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania declared that it had made every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control contaminated by cluster munition remnants, in accordance with article 4.1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
2. On 9 September 2013, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania declared that it had cleared and destroyed all cluster munition remnants located in the areas referred to in paragraph 1 above, in accordance with article 4.1 of the Convention.
3. By taking the action described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has fulfilled its obligations under article 4.1 (a).

Location

4. The cluster munition contaminated area was part of a battle zone in the Western Sahara conflict, situated in the Department (*Moughataa*) of Bir Moghreïn in the region (*wilaya*) of Tiris Zemmour. The initial confirmed hazardous area consists of nine contaminated sites known as Bir Mariam, Gharet el Hemeïd, Teghert, Oum Edhbaitt, Agwachin, Eweïneget, Odeyatt Bozeyan, Aldouik and Aydiyatt, which were bombarded with Mk-118, BLU-63 and M42 cluster munitions between 1975 and 1978. The total area involved measures 1,964,740 m².

* CCM/MSP/2014/1.



Methods

5. The cluster munition contaminated area was cleared by a humanitarian demining unit under the supervision of the non-governmental organization Norwegian People's Aid and the National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development. Clearance was carried out with detectors following national standards that are consistent with the International Mine Action Standards. A total of 1,246 bombs were destroyed during clearance operations in 2012 and 2013.

6. For safety reasons, these areas were closed to civilians during the clearance operations, in coordination with the local authorities. Since 2014 the areas have been opened for socioeconomic use by the nomads who live in this geographical area.

Contact information

7. The clearance operation was led by the National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (a programme of the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization), with support from Norwegian People's Aid. The Programme is responsible for the implementation of the Conventions on anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. It prepares and publishes the annual transparency reports required under these disarmament conventions.

8. The Programme can be contacted at its postal address (PNDHD, Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization, P.O. Box 4717: 42-017 Nouakchott), by telephone (+222 45252714), by fax (+222 45252714) or by e-mail (Coordinateur@pndhd.mr).

Residual risk

9. The Programme conducted post-clearance quality control operations in 2013, as a result of which the land was released and the residual risk was confirmed to be acceptable under the national standards in force.

II. Action to be taken if areas previously unknown to have been contaminated by cluster munitions are identified after completion

10. In the event that areas previously unknown to have been contaminated by cluster munitions are identified after 2020, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania will, as soon as possible, take action:

(a) To accurately identify the extent of the contaminated areas and destroy all cluster munitions found in those areas, using the most effective and efficient methods, including the ones described above;

(b) To ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from those areas until they are no longer contaminated;

(c) To report such contaminated areas in accordance with its obligations under article 7 of the Convention and to share any relevant information with the general public, stakeholders and States parties through other formal and informal means;

(d) To submit an additional declaration of compliance to States parties when those contaminated areas are identified and all remnants of cluster munitions in those areas have been cleared and destroyed.

Procedure for reporting sightings of possible explosive remnants of war, including remnants of cluster munitions

11. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has been contaminated by unexploded remnants of war since its involvement in the Western Sahara conflict. This is a low-risk problem that mainly results in delays and extra costs for mining exploration and infrastructure projects in affected areas. To address the problem, there is a requirement to report sightings of possible explosive remnants of war. Such ordnance is disarmed and destroyed in accordance with existing national standards.

12. The standard procedure is to contact the administrative, municipal and military authorities and report any sighting or suspected explosive contamination. These authorities assess the situation and, if necessary, secure the area and contact the National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development or Mauritanian defence engineers to clear the area. This is also the procedure for reporting possible contamination by cluster munitions.
