

Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

2 October 2019

Original: English

Oslo, 26-29 November 2019

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5

Analysis of the request submitted by Chad for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Austria, Canada, Colombia and the Netherlands)*

1. Chad ratified the Convention on 6 May 1999, and the Convention entered into force for Chad on 1 November 1999. In its initial transparency report submitted on 29 April 2002, Chad reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Chad was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 November 2009. Since that time, Chad submitted requests for extension of its deadline to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) in 2008, the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) in 2010, and the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) in 2013. On each occasion, the Meetings of the States Parties agreed unanimously to grant Chad its request for extension. The request for extension granted to Chad by the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties was for 6 years, until 1 January 2020.

2. In granting Chad's request in 2013, the 13MSP requested that, Chad submit to the President of the 13MSP, by the Third Review Conference, a clear and detailed national survey and clearance plan leading to completion with this plan addressing information discrepancies in the extension request. In May 2014, Chad acted upon the decision of the 13MSP by submitting an updated work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention containing the requested information.

3. On 16 April 2019, Chad submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation ("the Committee") a request for extension of its 1 January 2020 deadline. On 21 June 2019, the Committee wrote to Chad to request additional clarification and information. On 13 August 2019, Chad submitted to the Committee a revised request in response to the Committee's questions. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Chad submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee. Chad's request is for 5 years, until 1 January 2025.

4. The request recalls that Chad's understanding of its original challenge was derived from a Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) carried out in 1999-2001, which covered all of Chad's territory except the Tibesti region. The request also recalls that the LIS data proved to contain inaccuracies. Chad's request submitted in 2010 indicated that subsequent to the

* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



LIS, during the course of demining operations in the Borkou and Ennedi regions in the north of Chad, new areas containing or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines were discovered totaling approximately 96 square kilometres (96,297,542 square metres) including three minefields located close to Wadi Doum (960,000 square metres).

5. In its request submitted in 2013, Chad indicated that a nationwide technical survey was conducted in the period 2010-2012 to the exception of the Moyen Chari department and the north of Tibesti. The survey identified 246 hazardous areas totalling 61,231,143 square metres, of which 65 areas were contaminated with mines, while Chad's national mine action strategy indicated that 91,71 square kilometres remained to be cleared. Further to clarification requested from Chad, it appeared that there were 204 remaining hazardous areas, including 98 mined areas covering 86,784 square kilometres.

6. The Committee recalled that in its previous request, Chad had committed to demine, during the period 2013-2017, all priority axis in Tibesti and during the period 2015-2019, all contaminated areas in Ennedi and Borkou. Chad also committed to implement a technical survey in the Ikea region.

7. With respect to these commitments, Chad's present request indicates that since 2014, in the framework of the PADEMIN project (Project d'appui au secteur du déminage au Tchad), 15 areas (8 in Borkou, 5 in Tibesti, one in Wadi Fira and one in Moyen Chari) were released totaling 1,116,369 square metres, including 71,070 square metres cancelled, 59,452 square metres reduced and 123,665 square metres cleared. A total of 6 areas were cancelled, 2 reduced, 6 cleared and 1 area appeared to have been released without mention of the method of release. During these activities, 7 anti-personnel mines and 276 items of explosive ordnance were found and destroyed. In addition, as a result of non-technical surveys in Tibesti, of the 109 confirmed or suspected hazardous areas, of which 53 are contaminated by mines, 73 areas were closed, one was cancelled and 35 remain contaminated. Non-technical surveys were conducted in Borkou (15 areas), Moyen-Chari (12 areas), and Chari-Baguirmi (one area). Three areas were released in Tibesti in 2016, one by technical survey and two by clearance, totaling 96,472 square metres, with 3 anti-tank mines and 1 explosive ordnance of war found and destroyed. The Committee noted that, while it appeared that Chad had made efforts to comply with its commitments, information provided on progress made could be communicated with greater clarity and in an unequivocal manner, in particular clarity would be increased if Chad had indicated which of the 204 remaining hazardous areas listed in the previous request had been released.

8. The Committee noted the importance of Chad continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), disaggregating by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and addressed through clearance.

9. The request also indicates that as a result of non-technical surveys conducted during the PADEMIN project, and in the framework of the PRODECO project (Projet d'appui au déminage, au développement, et à la protection sociale des personnes vulnérables dans le Nord et l'Ouest du Tchad), a database clean-up has been undertaken as a result of which 137 remaining mined areas have been identified. In addition, the request indicates that 60 areas have been defined as needing additional survey. The Committee noted that the full extent of the challenge faced by Chad is still unknown and that further survey is required. The Committee noted that it would be beneficial if Chad could provide a detailed plan with concrete milestones relating to the planned survey activities and the database cleanup.

10. The request indicates that in 2017, the Haut Commissariat National de Déminage (HCND) staff was reduced from 712 to 320 having to focus exclusively on the management and coordination of the national programme at the expense of its operational capacity. The request recalls that the HCND has been reorganised several times in the past to address financial and human resources mismanagement as well as weaknesses in resource mobilisation and operational planning. The request further indicates that mine action in Chad has lacked strategic vision, coordination and cohesion in its work, and that as a result, the programme has lost credibility both nationally and internationally. The Committee noted that it is positive that Chad acknowledges and communicates frankly about a situation

that has been assessed to slow down implementation and affect resource mobilisation efforts. The Committee further noted that while Chad has taken measures to strengthen the HCND and improve its working environment, it would be beneficial for the national programme if it did not have to face this situation on a regular basis.

11. The request indicates that circumstances that impeded regular progress include: (a) lack of funding resources; (b) insufficient data collection and archiving; (c) adverse weather conditions; (d) changing security situation in the Tibesti region; (f) mined areas difficult to access, and; (g) successive reorganisations of the HCND.

12. The request indicates a remaining challenge of 137 mined areas measuring 111,978,042 square metres, located in 5 regions of Chad, including 39 mined areas in Borkou region, 1 in Chari-Baguimi region, 7 in Ennedi region, 1 in Moyen Chari region, and 89 in Tibesti region. Only three areas seem to be identified as confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), while 134 are assumed to be suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). The Committee highlighted the importance of Chad reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner disaggregated in accordance with IMAS in order to ensure clarity.

13. The request indicates that anti-personnel mines continue to have humanitarian, and socio-economic impacts in Chad. Anti-personnel mines injured 165 persons during the third extension period. Anti-personnel mines act as a barrier to pasture lands, water sources, mining research, urban growth, and tourism. The Committee noted that the ongoing effort to implement Article 5 during the requested extension period had the potential of making a significant additional contribution to improving human safety and socio-economic conditions in Chad.

14. The request contains a work plan and budget for the period 2020-2024. The work plan indicates the following areas for priority: (a) minefields in the northern part of the country, on the border between Chad and Libya in Zouarké which consist of anti-tank mines protected by anti-personnel mines, with access unable to be made by vehicle, and (b) the southern part of the country, bordering the Central African Republic, where technical survey will be required. The Committee noted that access to the Tibesti region is dependent upon improvement in security and highlighted the importance of Chad continuing to report on changes to the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

15. The work plan indicates that Chad will address the following areas: (a) between January 2020 and September 2021, 39 areas in the Borkou region, one area in Chari Baguirmi and one area in Moyen Chari; (b) between July 2020 and December 2024, 7 areas in the Ennedi region, and; (c) from January 2020 to December 2024, 89 areas in Tibesti Region, dependent on the security situation. Given the logistical constraints of accessing and maintaining teams in these areas, the deployment of mixed teams with survey and demining capacity is being planned. The request also indicates that, given the size of the area remaining to be surveyed and the available information indicating a high probability of contamination, the plan provided in the request will be updated with survey results. The Committee noted that it was positive that Chad was envisaging to update its work plan to include the most up-to-date survey information. The Committee also highlighted the need to provide clarity in the plan by disaggregating activities relating to mined areas and areas affected by explosive remnants of war as well as a timeline for these activities.

16. The request indicates that the provisional budget for the period of the extension request totals US\$ 34 million around US\$ 6.8 million per year, for demining and survey activities. The action plan indicates a provisional budget of US\$ 37 million for the same activities. The Committee highlighted that clarifying the amount needed for the period of the extension request would benefit Chad's resource mobilization activities.

17. The work plan further indicates that the PRODECO project will run until September 2021, and that beyond this date, further funding will be required. The work plan further indicates that Chad has a resource mobilisation strategy, including an annual contribution from Chad, US\$ 537,000, towards the payment of HCND staff salaries and expenses. The work plan indicates that US\$ 3 million still needs to be raised annually with international donors. Chad's resource mobilisation strategy will target international donors and possibly

commercial sectors. Chad indicated that two donor meetings are planned in support of its mine action programme in Cameroon and Sudan.

18. The Committee noted that while Chad had made good efforts to largely comply with the commitments it had made to clarify the true remaining extent of its challenge, accurate and coherent data on which to base a sound plan leading to completion was still missing. The Committee noted that while it would appear that Chad possesses more knowledge than it did in 2013 about the remaining extent of the challenge, work remains to remove inconsistencies in the data provided. The Committee noted that Chad's plan is ambitious and clearly states which factors could affect implementation and that it depends on a sizable amount of external funding.

19. In recalling that the request contains a provisional work plan for the period of the extension request, and that the plan will be affected by changes to the security situation, the impact of results from baseline survey activities, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Chad submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2022, for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee noted that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget.

20. The Committee further noted that the convention would benefit from Chad reporting annually by 30 April to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Annual progress of land release activities, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards, including the identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Chad's work plan;

(b) Updated information on the full range of practical methods used to release land, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems;

(c) Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Chad to support implementation efforts;

(d) Regular updates on changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;

(e) Updates regarding the structure of Chad's mine action program, in particular the HCND, and;

(f) Updates on progress with the database clean up undertaken as part of the PRODECO project.

21. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Chad reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.
