

Afghanistan :

13 Sep Thursday: Cooperation and Assistance

Speech IV – Extension request and developing proposal

*Excellencies,*

*Distinguished colleagues,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has requested a ten-year extension of its deadline to complete the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

As part of this extension request work plans are developed which sets out projects in order of priority, over a 10 year period (2013 to 2023). There are 308 projects spread across Afghanistan, where the remaining 22 cluster munitions sites are part of these projects.

Afghanistan has also developed project proposal for the remaining cluster munitions sites. As a result of this project over 760 hectares of land will be returned to its original agriculture and grazing use. Over 1,900 people who are currently living in the proximity of these cluster munitions sites will no longer be threatened.

Thank you