

CMC Comments on Extension Request by Lebanon

CCM 2RC, 25-27 November 2020



Thank you, Mr. President,

We thank Lebanon for its comprehensive extension request and additional clarifications. Lebanon projects that all known cluster munition contaminated land will be safely released by the end of 2025, assuming that the external level of funding is maintained and that the national government will allocate additional funding in the first three years of the extension. While we regret Lebanon will need additional time to complete clearance of all its cluster munition contamination, we truly hope, with the continuous support of donors and partners, it will achieve it by 2025.

Among positive points of the request we note the following:

- There is clear presentation of what has been achieved to date and projections on what remains to be done, including existing challenges;
- The request clearly sets out the objectives and presents different scenarios of the work to be carried out across the five years depending on different levels of available funding;
- Lebanon demonstrates strong national ownership through its continuous full funding of the LMAC and committing to allocate additional public funds toward clearance, which would allow to increase annual clearance pace;
- We also commend Lebanon's, and in particular LMAC's, active efforts in fostering the Mine Action Forum that has greatly contributed to transparency and credibility of mine action in the country.

Points that will require further attention are as follows:

- As resource mobilization and mine action efforts progress, Lebanon needs to provide updated information in regard to remaining contamination and detailed plan for the next and following years;
- While Lebanon needs to continue mobilize substantial resources from international donors, it is crucial that the government indeed allocates the additional committed resources from the national budget to increase the pace of clearance;
- It would be also useful if Lebanon provided more detailed information on the risk education activities it plans to carry out during the extension period;
- Lastly, Lebanon needs to keep States Parties informed on its efforts aimed at overcoming the challenge of 'difficult terrain' or 'inaccessible areas', before the end of the extension period. We welcome the news that GICHD will partner with LMAC to further studies on this important issue with a view to supporting States Parties in implementing their survey and clearance obligations under the Convention. We look forward to the studies and welcome a coordinated approach to address this important issue.

In closing, we call on donors and partners to continue supporting Lebanon to fast track its completion, and on Lebanon to join the sister convention – the Mine Ban Treaty.