

Comments on Extension Request by Chile

CCM Intersessional Meeting, Geneva, 16-17 May 2022



The Cluster Munition Coalition thanks Chile for its extension request and for providing additional clarifications today.

We are very pleased Chile succeeded in completing its technical survey of the four military ranges with suspected cluster munition contamination, which resulted in reducing the contamination by over 52%. This is certainly commendable.

We are however surprised and deeply disappointed that operations were suspended for this year and the first half of 2023, as no resources were allocated or requested by Chile. This means that in the 11 years since the convention entered into force for Chile, it has neither carried out any clearance, nor secured any funding for this purpose. We wish to remind Chile that clearance of contamination is a legal obligation and as per the convention's Art. 4 needs to be fulfilled "as soon as possible."

We appreciate that Chile has now presented a complete and detailed work plan for clearance of the four military ranges. However, we remain concerned about resource mobilization to ensure the required funding is secured in time. We would welcome if Chile could provide assurance to State Parties that it will be able to ensure sufficient resources are secured and will be allocated in a timely manner to avoid any future delays.

In addition, Chile needs to clarify in its request if there is a threat to local populations living in proximity to the contaminated areas. If this is the case, Chile needs to submit a more detailed plan for risk education, including information on the target groups, a plan of activities, and the cost of risk education outreach and sources of funding.

Concluding, we urge Chile to explore all possible options to commence clearance without further delay and to aim at achieving completion sooner than currently foreseen.

Lastly, I want to thank the Coordinators, the ISU and the Analysis Group for their transparent, inclusive, and sustained efforts on the extensions analysis process.