

Mine Action Review Statement on Chile's Article 4 Extension Request

Item 3(c): Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants and risk education
CCM Intersessional Meetings, 16-17 May 2022

Thank you, Mr President.

Chile is requesting an extension of three years, to 1 June 2026, within which to complete cluster munition clearance.

After a slow start to its Article 4 implementation since becoming State Party to the Convention in 2011, Mine Action Review commends Chile for now having conducted technical survey in 2021 and reduced the size of the remaining cluster munition-contaminated area by just over a half, with all contamination now classified into four confirmed hazardous areas.

We welcome Chile's comprehensive extension request, and the additional information provided at the request of the Article 4 Analysis Group, which includes a costed workplan for clearance with annual targets. We also note Chile's confirmation to the Article 4 Analysis Group, that Armed Forces already conducted clearance following the deployment of cluster munition on the training ranges in 2007 and 2008, and that consequently, Chile estimates that the remaining extent of cluster munitions still to be found will be minimal. This means that the clearance targets detailed in Chile's extension request are entirely achievable.

Mine Action Review welcomes the establishment of a new government department in Chile, in February of this year, which is responsible for the planning and coordinating of clearance activities. We hope that the national funding budgeted for cluster munition clearance is approved by the Minister of Finance, to enable successful implementation of Chile's Article 4 commitments by the deadline.

Mine Action Review would like to hear more from Chile on gender and diversity mainstreaming within its mine action programme. Chile has employed some women within its demining units and has said that there is equal access for both men and women who meet the technical requirements. It would be useful to hear if Chile has any plans to elaborate a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan.

Finally, we look forward to regular updates from Chile on progress in implementing its Article 4 completion plan, and to this being the last extension required for it to fulfill its clearance obligations under the Convention.

Thank you.