

Observations and Comments of the CCM Article 4 Analysis Group on the Extension Request submitted by Mauritania in accordance with Article 4.5 of the Convention

The Analysis Group is grateful for the efforts made by Mauritania in preparing its Article 4 Extension Request submitted on 30 June 2021 in accordance with the outline recommended in the CCM Extension Requests Guidelines adopted at the 8MSP. The Group notes that Mauritania had previously declared completion of its clearance obligations and is the first CCM State Party to apply for an extension request following the discovery of new previously unreported cluster munition-contaminated areas. The Group takes this opportunity to compliment Mauritania for the transparency exhibited in this matter. The Group also commends Mauritania for requesting only the estimated necessary time for Mauritania to comply with its obligations as well as providing a work plan that allows for progress to be monitored.

While the Analysis Group agrees that the Mauritanian Request meets the basic requirements for States Parties to the Convention to consider the submission, it has also observed a number of key elements which require further elaboration by the requesting State to strengthen the request. Moreover, by providing these additional clarifications, States Parties to the CCM will be able to attain a better understanding of the challenges faced by Mauritania in implementing its Article 4 obligations. In this regard, the Analysis Group requests additional information or further clarification from Mauritania by **Friday 23 July 2021** on the following points:-

1. More information on the **classification** of the newly identified cluster munition contaminated areas in Tiris Zemmour:
 - (a) Need to clarify in accordance with current IMAS whether each of the nine areas can be designated as a Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) or a Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) and indicate how these would be dealt with.
 - (b) Methodologies and categorization utilized need to be in compliance with international standards, including International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in accordance with Article 4.3.
 - (c) Mauritania indicates that the presence of cluster munition contamination has been visually confirmed in all the nine areas (direct evidence). Have the exact locations of these items been recorded?
2. The **Nomes Mauritaniennes de l'action antimines (NMAM)** which are Mauritania's national mine action standards, were approved by the National Humanitarian Demining Program for Development (PNDHD) and Mauritanian Government in 2007. No information on whether these national standards have been amended since their adoption in 2007 have been amended in light of IMAS updates. Therefore, Mauritania should provide clear information on whether the standards are up to date and in accordance with current IMA, and if not, whether Mauritania plans to review and update its national standards.

3. It is noted that Mauritania has not provided much information on the **methodologies** that it will employ. In addition, it is noted that Mauritania intends to deploy four BAC teams to address the newly identified cluster munition contaminated areas with a total area of 14,017,596 m². More information should be provided on the size and composition of these BAC teams. It would also be beneficial to mention if the teams will consist of only staff from the Corps of Engineers.
4. The **Work Plan** included in the extension request outlines activities to be carried out during the extension period, i.e. 1 August 2022 to 1 August 2024.
 - (a) What activities pertaining to CCM Article 4 are being carried out prior to 1 August 2022?
 - (b) In the Plan on page 11, it states the period of “February – December 2024” follows the period of “January 2023”. Kindly explain the delayed commencement or correct the typographical error in the year stated.
5. The Request would benefit from the provision of additional information on Mauritania’s **resource mobilization plan**, in particular:
 - (a) Which potential international implementing partners and States has Mauritania identified to be in a position to provide assistance to its cluster munition clearance activities?
 - (b) How does Mauritania intend to engage with the abovementioned partners and States?
 - (c) What is Mauritania’s contingency plan in case of lack of sufficient resources?
6. Mauritania has not provided any information on **risk education** in its Request.
 - (a) What efforts have been carried out or are being carried out to ensure the safety and awareness of civilians that could come into contact with the cluster munition contaminated areas?
 - (b) Has an assessment of needs and vulnerability been carried out to identify the targeted communities or groups to provide risk education to?
7. **Gender and diversity** are mainstreamed in the Lausanne Action Plan that will be adopted by States Parties at the Second Review Conference (2RC).
 - (a) How does Mauritania intend to ensure that gender and diversity are considered and integrated into all appropriate activities related to survey and clearance of cluster munition remnants? For example, will Mauritania seek to achieve gender-balanced and diverse survey and BAC teams?
8. Mauritania assures that it has the **political will** to comply with CCM Article 4 and indicates its willingness to contribute financially and in-kind towards the cost of the request activities.
 - (a) However, Mauritania lists a “lack of national political will” as a risk factor of noncompliance. Please clarify this apparent contradiction.
 - (b) Constraints listed include – inability to mobilize resources; lack of national political will or international support; security situation; and impact of pandemic. Could more information be provided including on what are the potential security problems, etc.?