



Presentation of extension request submitted by Mauritania under  
Article 4 of the Convention (CCM/CONF/2021/2)

Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

20-21 September 2021

## Statement by the Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

*Check against delivery*

Thank you Mr President.

MAG welcomes the submission of a detailed Article 4 extension request by Mauritania until 1 August 2022. Although Mauritania had previously declared completion, the reporting of newly discovered contamination together with plans to address it shows transparency and political will. Mauritania's commitment of resources to achieve Article 4 compliance also demonstrates national ownership.

Having an evidence-based **contamination baseline** is essential for the planning and prioritisation of an effective response. It is encouraging that Mauritania was able to define the extent of contamination in a relatively short timeframe, though it acknowledges the need for further survey to better define the precise location, scope and extent of cluster munition contamination. All non-technical survey should be done through inclusive engagement with communities, as recommended by Actions #4 and #18 of the Lausanne Action Plan.

Mauritania identifies the risk of currently unknown areas of cluster munition contamination being discovered in the future due to geographic conditions, and the need for having **sustainable national capacity** in place. We welcome Mauritania's commitment to strengthen national capacity and we urge it to identify development needs early on and to develop a clear and tailored capacity development plan, in line with Action #22.

Mr. President,

The Convention is about curbing the unacceptable harm that cluster munitions pose to civilians. Mauritania's extension request notes that accidents continue to occur, but there is limited detail on casualty data or gendered analysis of risk taking behaviour. These are essential to understand the impact of contamination. In addition to providing further detail on this, Mauritania should conduct tailored risk education activities to prevent further accidents, in line with Action #28 of the Lausanne Action Plan. We also recommend that Mauritania integrates risk education into ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities, as well as into wider humanitarian and development programmes, in line with Action #27.

The mainstreaming of gender and diversity, as well as environmental considerations across the Lausanne Action Plan is a positive step and we hope Mauritania and other States Parties with Article 4 obligations consider and report on these aspects in the future.

MAG has had a presence in Mauritania since 2017, implementing weapons and ammunition management projects and stands ready to support Mauritania's cluster munitions and mine action programme. A partnership approach is essential for Mauritania to achieve compliance with Article 4. We call on donor states to step up to the challenge.

Thank you.

**ENDS.**