

**Statement by Guyana on behalf of the Analysis Group for Article 4 Extension Requests by
Mauritania**

Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Mr President

Thank you for giving me the floor.

I make this statement on behalf of the Article 4 Analysis Group on the extension request by Mauritania. The composition of the Analysis Group was the same as that which considered the extension requests of Iraq.

Mr President,

Mauritania submitted its draft extension request to the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU) on 8 February 2023 for it to make an initial assessment to ensure the request comprised the critical components outlined in Article 4 paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Convention. Thereafter, Mauritania provided two further revised drafts on 20 February 2023 and 3 March 2023 on which the ISU provided additional feedback. On 13 March 2023, the ISU held an informal virtual meeting with the Coordinator of the National Humanitarian Demining Program for Development (PNDHD) of Mauritania with the aim to further improve on the draft extension request. Based on the meeting, Mauritania submitted an updated draft request on 28 March 2023, which the ISU forwarded to the Analysis Group.

Mr President,

The request indicates that in all the nine identified areas, the presence of CMs had been visually confirmed through direct evidence and these areas have been categorized as confirmed hazardous areas (CHA). However, to determine the precise size of these areas, further technical survey work will be required. In addition, it informs that an initial period of six months will be needed to complete the necessary preparations. These preparations involve securing funding, assembling a skilled workforce, acquiring essential equipment, and allocating other required resources for the deployment of four Battlefield Area Clearance (BAC) teams of five qualified members to address the remaining contamination.

Further, the request highlights several challenges that could affect the implementation of its work plan, including difficult terrain, the size and complexity of the contaminated areas, the available resources, and the effectiveness of the demining teams. The request points out that the main determining factor of Mauritania's ability to implement its work plan is the availability of funding. The request acknowledges the need for alternative solutions should support from the international community and foreign donors fall short for Mauritania to progress towards completion of its obligations under the CCM.

Mr President,

The Analysis Group acknowledges the efforts of Mauritania, including the allocation of national funds, since the submission of its first extension request in 2021 and recognizes that the main obstacle in the implementation of Mauritania's work plan was the lack of securing the international funding it needed to fulfil its Article 4 obligations.

The Analysis Group notes with regret that Mauritania submitted its extension request much later than the required minimum of nine months prior to the Meeting of States Parties or Review Conference at which it is to be considered. However, the Group appreciates Mauritania's high level of engagement with the ISU and the Analysis Group throughout the extension request process.

Mr. President,

Given the foregoing, the Group recommends that the Meeting grants Mauritania its request for an extension of 2 years until 1 August 2026. In granting this request, the Group believes that the provision of a more detailed and costed work plan for survey, clearance and risk education would make the plan easier to monitor, particularly considering the dependence of its implementation on international cooperation and assistance.

Accordingly, the Group notes that the Convention would benefit from Mauritania reporting on the following:

- (a) Progress made by Mauritania on the implementation of the work plan provided in its extension request.
- (b) Updated information on the contaminated area still to be addressed
- (c) Any Other relevant information.

Finally, the Analysis Group notes the importance of Mauritania keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of any other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 4 during the period covered by the request.

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