

CMC Statement on Extension Requests

*Convention on Cluster Munitions 12th Meeting of States Parties,
Geneva, 10-13 September 2024*

Thank you, Mme. President,

We have a few brief comments on all 3 requests. The CMC would like to thank Chad, Germany, and Lao PDR for the intensive effort they have put into preparing their extension requests and responding to requests for additional information from the Analyzing Group. We would also like to thank the convention leadership for the inclusive and transparent process they have created for interested stakeholders to provide expert input. Both elements – detailed and well thought-through requests and a comprehensive and iterative review process – show due respect for the ultimate goal of the extension request process: to promote states' completion of clearance obligations "as soon as possible" so that we may more expeditiously end the suffering caused by cluster munitions.

Again, all three countries have demonstrated strong national commitment and ownership. Indeed, progress on Article 4 is closely linked to strong national capacity and the adequate allocation of national resources, but in most cases it also requires other States Parties to provide much needed international cooperation and assistance. In this regard, we would like to strongly encourage donors to provide much-needed financial support for Chad, which has systematically been on the low end of global mine action assistance and needs only a small amount of support to carry out its non-technical survey in the Tibesti region. Chad could also benefit from additional technical support to help them better define, plan and carry out the survey. Without such support, Chad may be obliged to seek another extension for the survey in Tibesti that was already planned during the ongoing extension period. As for Germany, we would like to recognize the challenges and high costs of clearing such a large area full of mixed contamination and the large amount of national resources that have been allocated to address the problem. But it would have been useful for Germany share a clearer mitigation plan that addresses the well-known risks that have repeatedly stood in the way of faster progress so that they can avoid the need for another extension. Finally, we would like to emphasize the need for sustained, multi-year funding for Laos. It has demonstrated an encouraging clearance rate that has been steadily increasing in recent years, but needs continued support so that it can continue its long path towards fulfillment of its Article 4 obligations.

In closing, we would like to encourage Chad, Germany and Lao to renew their focus

on targets set for the upcoming extension period, and to ensure comprehensive annual reporting that includes a clear articulation of progress as well as a description of how they are addressing the re-occurring challenges that may hamper the implementation of planned activities. And again we call on donors and other partners to provide Chad and Lao PDR with the support they need to make further progress.

Thank you.