

**Mine Action Review Statement on Chad's Article 4 Extension Request
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Item 9: Presentation of deadline extension requests under Article 4 of the Convention and of the
analysis of these requests: Chad**

Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM, 10–13 September 2024

Thank you Madam President.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Mine Action Review.

We thank Chad for its second extension request, which is largely based on its first requested extension, granted in 2022. Chad plans for an initial period of four months that includes two months to mobilise resources and five weeks to deploy five teams to carry out NTS and risk education in Tibesti. Chad will then draw up a detailed work plan covering the remaining period of its extension, based on the results of the NTS.

It is worth emphasising that under Article 4.2(a) of the Convention, an affected State Party is required to make “every effort to identify all cluster munition contaminated areas under its jurisdiction or control”. In order for Chad to be able to declare completion, it is imperative it verifies whether or not there is cluster munition contamination in the province of Tibesti. Therefore Chad is doing the right thing and implementing its legal obligations under Article 4 through the planned non-technical survey.

It is therefore of real concern that in the two years since States Parties granted Chad's first extension request at 10MSP, Chad has not received the international assistance it requires in order to conduct the requisite survey and zero progress has been made on the ground towards meeting its Article 4 obligations.

Chad has limited capacity and significantly less financial resources in comparison to fellow affected States Parties Germany and Lao PDR, which are also seeking extensions to their respective Article 4 deadlines here in Geneva this week.

While Chad has committed to contribute financially and in-kind to the non-technical survey, it will not be able to conduct the survey without international support. The amount of funding being sought – some EURO 115,000 – is extremely small.

Article 6.1 of the Convention specifies that “In fulfilling its obligations under this Convention each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance.” In the Lausanne Action Plan, States Parties further committed to support timely implementation of the Convention. The Convention must find a way to be able to support ALL affected States Parties to meet their legal obligations under Article 4, and fellow States Parties must support Chad in its resource mobilisation efforts, otherwise we risk Chad remaining on the list of affected States indefinitely.

If Chad receives the international financial report it requires, and if security conditions permit, it could well be one of the next affected States Parties to fulfil its Article 4 obligations, given that the extent of cluster munition remnant contamination, if it is confirmed, is likely to be light.

In terms of the content of the second extension request, Mine Action Review welcomes that Chad incorporated useful additional information concerning its planned methodology for NTS, as requested by the Analysis Group.

Mine Action Review encourages Chad to provide additional information on how it plans to mainstream gender and diversity into its mine action programming. We note and welcome that the HCND will strive to recruit local women to support the surveyors in the field during interviews as part of the NTS, which will be extremely important given that Chad highlights that socio-cultural norms are very strong in Tibesti province. We also encourage Chad to take environmental considerations into account too, in its Article 4 implementation.

Thank you.