

Comments on Somalia's Article 4 Extension Request

*Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional meetings
Geneva, 7-8 April 2025*

Thank you, Chair,

The Cluster Muniton Coalition thanks Somalia for presenting its amended extension request and the Coordinators and the ISU for all the support extended to Somalia during the process.

We note with appreciation that the additional information submitted by Somalia addresses many of the comments raised by the analysis group. In particular, we commend Somalia for clarifying the scope of remaining contamination—now quantified as 11 areas requiring clearance, following an update that includes 8 initially known sites, 6 newly discovered areas, and 3 sites that have since been released.

However, despite these improvements, the revised request continues to lack critical elements that are necessary for a robust and credible extension request. While the justification for a four-year extension is based on alignment with the National Transformation Plan, Somalia has not yet provided sufficient detail on how this Plan will facilitate access to, and the survey and clearance of, contaminated areas. The current request does not clearly outline what specific preconditions or actions associated with the National Transformation Plan will enable progress, nor does it adequately explain why a four-year timeframe is essential as opposed to a shorter, more targeted extension, which we believe would be more appropriate in the current context.

Equally concerning is the absence of information on current accessibility to the contaminated sites. It remains unclear whether any of these areas are accessible under existing conditions, regardless of anticipated developments under the National Transformation Plan.

Further the request lacks a multi-year plan for risk education activities. No details are provided on the strategies or methodologies that will be used to reach affected communities—many of which are likely to be in hard-to-access areas with ongoing security concerns and with presence of contamination from other explosive ordnance.

While we recognize that the allocation of national funding to SEMA depends on the passage of relevant legislation, it would be useful to have an estimate of the financial resources expected to be covered by national sources. This includes not only what is

required to meet Article 4 obligations, but also an indicative budget for land release and risk education activities planned during the extension period.

Finally, we note with concern that Somalia has not yet submitted its pending 2023 Article 7 transparency report. Timely submission of these reports is an essential element of compliance with the convention and enables constructive monitoring of progress.

The Cluster Munition Coalition stands ready to support Somalia in meeting its obligations under the Convention and encourages further detail, transparency, and planning to ensure timely clearance of remaining contamination and protection of affected communities.

Thank you.