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**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention  
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel  
Mines and on Their Destruction**

23 September 2021

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**Nineteenth Meeting  
The Hague, 15–19 November 2021  
Item 12 of the provisional agenda  
Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5****Analysis of the request submitted by Somalia for an extension  
of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-  
personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the  
Convention\*****Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation  
(Belgium, Norway, Sri Lanka and Zambia)**

1. Somalia acceded to the Convention on 16 April 2012, and the Convention entered into force for Somalia on 1 October 2012. Somalia was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 October 2022. Somalia, believing that it will be unable to do so by that date submitted on 20 April 2021 to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its deadline. On 25 June 2021, the Committee wrote to Somalia to request additional information. On 8 September 2021, Somalia submitted to the Committee a revised request for extension incorporating additional information provided in response to the Committee's questions. Somalia's request is for 5 years, until 1 October 2027. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Somalia has submitted its request in a timely manner keeping the Committee informed of delays and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee.

2. The request indicates that several surveys have been undertaken to quantify the nature and extent of anti-personnel mine contamination, including two Phases of the Landmine Impact Surveys 2002-2008, and non-technical and technical surveys (2008-2018). The request indicates that Somalia is contaminated with anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature, and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) along Somalia's border regions with Ethiopia and within Somalia around towns, military installations, often within distance of civilian infrastructure.

3. The request indicates that in 2017, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) handed over coordination of the information management system to the Somali Explosives Management Authority (SEMA). The request indicates that the process of updating and verifying historical data, including the establishment of a new country reporting structure for 7 States (Banadir, Hirshabelle, Souh West, Jubaland, Galmudug, Puntland and Somaliland) is continuing. The request further indicates that Somalia has been carrying out database clean-up efforts to remove "closed" hazardous areas from the database to better understand that progress made and remaining challenge.

4. The Committee noted that there is a lack of clarity concerning the progress made in Somalia since entry into force and highlighted the importance of Somalia working with its partners to ensure that information is collected and recorded in a manner that will permit

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\* This document is submitted late due to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



Somalia to provide a clear picture of progress in implementation. The Committee further noted the importance of Somalia reporting information in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by ‘suspected hazardous areas’ and ‘confirmed hazardous areas’ and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination and reporting on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance). The Committee further recalled that States Parties affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature are obliged to ensure that they apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination as they do for all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregate by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.

5. The Committee noted the importance of Somalia maintaining a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. The Committee further noted that Somalia should ensure that the design and implementation of its information management system will ensure that it is nationally owned, sustainable and take into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion.

6. The request indicates that Somalia has reviewed its national mine action standards, including relevant provisions with respect to gender and diversity, and that all National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) will be approved in 2021. The Committee noted the importance of Somalia ensuring that NMAS continue to be kept up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS, adapt them to new challenges and to ensure that Somalia employs best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.

7. The request indicates the following factors, in Somalia’s view, acted as impeding circumstances during Somalia’s initial Article 5 deadline: (a) Insufficient information about the extent of the contamination, (b) insufficient information about the impact of the contamination, (c) limited access to contaminated areas because of security concerns, (d) other types of contamination have had to take priority, (e) lack of training, (f) lack of resources, and (g) lack of effective coordination and prioritization.

8. The request indicates that anti-personnel mines continue to have humanitarian, socio-economic impacts in Somalia. The presence of explosive hazards impacts the safety of affected communities, including returnees and internally displaced people. In affected communities, anti-personnel mines and ERW threaten both people and animals, with evidence that people collect and carry ERW, (stockpiling them for future sale or use). The request indicates that explosive ordnance, including anti-personnel mines continue to be a security concern for sustainable development initiatives. The request indicates that in 2020, a total of 49 ERW/mine related victims were recorded, with 76 percent of the deaths and injuries reported to be children. The Committee noted that implementation of Article 5 obligations during the requested extension period has the potential of making a significant contribution to improving human safety and socioeconomic conditions in Somalia. The Committee noted the importance of Somalia collecting information and reporting on casualties in a manner disaggregated by persons killed by mines as well as persons injured by mines, disaggregated by gender, age and disability.

9. The request indicates that the exact locations and extent of anti-personnel mine contamination is difficult to quantify due to, (i) the inability to access mined areas to conduct survey, (ii) contamination data gathered through historical surveys considered outdated, (iii) a lack of resources to deploy sufficient survey teams. The request further indicates that the overall extent of contamination by anti-personnel mines remains largely unknown and complex, due to recontamination of previously cleared areas and continued use of improvised explosive devices (IED) by non-state armed groups. The request indicates that, in spite of this, as of 31 December 2020, the remaining implementation challenge as registered in the database, for all types of explosive ordnance, was estimated at 161,806,388 square metres.

10. The Committee noted the importance of Somalia identifying as soon as possible the precise perimeter of mined areas in accessible areas to the extent possible and establish an updated evidence-based baseline of contamination based on inclusive consultations with

stakeholders including women, girls, boys and men from affected communities. The Committee noted that doing so could support Somalia's prioritization efforts and ensure that resources are directed to the most affected areas.

11. The Committee recognises the uncertain nature of Somalia's estimates and noted that a more accurate estimate of the amount of time and resources required to complete implementation in accessible areas should be available once survey efforts have been carried out. The Committee further noted the importance of Somalia reporting in a manner consistent with IMAS and notes the importance of Somalia providing information on its remaining challenge in a manner disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination. The Committee further noted the importance of Somalia maintaining the States Parties informed on security-related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impact on plans for re-survey and clearance of mined areas.

12. As noted, Somalia's request is for five years, until 1 October 2027. The request indicates that the amount of time is based on the current level of conflict and insecurity present in the country that limits access to contaminated areas, and the current human, financial and technical resources available to implement Somalia's obligations under Article 5.

13. The request contains a detailed work plan for the period of the extension request. The request indicates that Somalia will implement its work plan in two phases with both phases including two components, (i) Building the national capacity of SEMA, and (ii) Continued implementation of land release and mine risk education activities in secure areas.

#### **Phase 1: To be completed by Somalia's 1 October 22 deadline:**

- Component 1: Building the national capacity of SEMA, (i) administrative capacity, (ii) information management system for Humanitarian Mine Action, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, and Risk Education, and (iii) Quality Assurance capacity.
- Component 2: Strengthen capacity building support and partnerships to ensure the continuation of land release and mine risk education activities in secure areas. Component two is comprised of the following: (i) development of non-technical survey plan for secure areas. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and one implementing partner to launch a capacity building 12-month project in 2021. The project will initiate a pilot non-technical survey in the fourth quarter of 2021. This pilot is aimed to build SEMA's capacity to undertake a nationwide non-technical survey in Phase Two, and (ii) Continuation of Land Release and Mine Risk Education activities in secure areas.

#### **Phase 2: To be carried out from 1 October 2022 to 1 October 2027:**

- Component 1: (i) Continue strengthening information management and quality assurance, (ii) implementation of non-technical survey in currently accessible areas based on the timing and outcome of the non-technical survey (NTS) pilot undertaken in Phase One, (iii) coordination of a nationwide NTS, (with consideration given to security and access to mined areas) in order to identify to the extent possible, the precise perimeter of mined areas.

14. The request also includes an integrated plan for land release and mine risk education (MRE) activities, including the current survey, clearance and risk education capacities of implementing partners, together with their current deployment to accessible locations.

15. The request indicates that mine risk education is informed by a 2018 Knowledge, Attitude, Practices, and Behaviour Survey and that context specific MRE is integrated into the land release activities of implementing partners. The Committee welcomes the provision of information on Somalia's mine risk education activities and welcomes development of mine risk education plans on the basis of a needs' assessment, tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and that they are sensitive to gender, age and take the diverse

needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee noted the importance of Somalia and its partners continuing to explore innovative ways to deliver MRE to the population in accessible and inaccessible areas and submitting information on progress in this regard.

16. The request indicates that Somalia will revise its work plan annually, with a revised work plan for Phase 2 to be included in Somalia's Article 7 Report 30 April 2023. The request indicates that the following risks and assumptions are made regarding the realisation of the plan: (i) security, (ii) coordination and productivity, (iii) funding. The Committee welcomes Somalia's commitment and recognised the importance of Somalia annually updating its national work plan based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports.

17. The request indicates that SEMA is reliant on foreign resources. The Committee noted that while a budget proposal for SEMA has been submitted to the Ministry of Internal Security (MOIS), with approval expected by 2022, the request would benefit from further information, including a projected timeline of formal institutional approval for SEMA and the approval of national budget allocations. The Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Somalia submitting further information on its efforts to demonstrate a high level of national ownership, including by making financial and other commitments to implementation.

18. The request indicates that mine action was included in Somalia's National Development Plan, (2017-2020). The Committee welcomed Somalia reporting on its efforts to ensure the integration of mine action in national development plans and noted the importance of Somalia strengthening partnerships and integrating responses between mine action and relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, development and human rights communities.

19. The Committee noted that, given the importance of national and external support to ensure timely implementation, Somalia could benefit from enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy. In this regard, and also understanding that a lack of effective coordination was highlighted by Somalia as an impeding circumstance, the Committee encourages Somalia to strengthen dialogue with national and international stakeholders, including through the individualised approach, and to establish an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders. The Committee welcomes Somalia's commitment to develop a national plan for resource mobilisation in collaboration with mine action stakeholders in Somalia, the government and donor countries with a more detailed and costed operational work plan, including desktop survey and non-technical survey provided for Phase 2 of the work plan.

20. In recalling that the implementation of Somalia's national demining plan may be affected by continued conflict, limited access to mined areas, resource allocation pending approval from the State budget, current levels of international funding, the continued impact of COVID-19, and in noting Somalia's commitment to submit an updated work plan by the end of Phase 1, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Somalia submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for activities included in Phase 2 of the workplan. The Committee also noted the importance of this updated work plan including, amongst other matters:

- i. A detailed, costed work plan for implementation of NTS including information on the available assets to conduct NTS, the cost for the NTS as well as the areas where NTS will be prioritised;
- ii. A list of all accessible areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual milestones of which areas and what area is to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established for the remaining period covered by the request;
- iii. A detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities as well as provisions for a sustainable national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered.

21. The Committee noted that the request includes other relevant information that may be of use to the States Parties in considering the request, including further detail on the progress in implementation of Article 5, socio-economic implications of remaining contamination, information on landmine victims and efforts to ensure the exclusion of civilians from mined areas, information on current survey and clearance capacity, as well as photos, maps and tables.

22. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request and subsequently in responses to the Committee's questions is comprehensive, complete and clear. The Committee noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is based on significant contribution from the international community, improvement in the current security situation, access to mined areas, and improvement in coordination. The Committee, nonetheless noted that the plan presented by Somalia is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect progress in implementation. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Somalia reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

(a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Somalia's work plan, including progress made in the implementation of Phase 1 and 2;

(b) Results of survey and clearance efforts, in a manner consistent with IMAS, and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);

(c) Update on how additional clarity obtained changes Somalia's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge, providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination;

(d) Annual adjusted milestones, including the number of mined areas and amount of mined area to be addressed, and on how priorities have been established;

(e) Updates on Somalia's efforts to apply all the provisions and obligations under the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, including disaggregation of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations;

(f) Updates on Somalia's efforts to approve its NMAS including updates in accordance with the latest IMAS;

(g) Updates on efforts to strengthen the integrity of the national information management system ensuring that it contains accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation and updates on 'data base clean-up' efforts;

(h) Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;

(i) Updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

(j) Updates regarding the structure of Somalia's mine action programme, including budget approval of SEMA and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion; and

(k) Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of Somalia to support implementation, including to strengthen the capacity of SEMA, strengthen cooperation with partners and facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities.

23. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Somalia reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.