



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

UNMAS Statement on the Sudan extension request

Intersessional Meetings (APMBC)

(20-22 June 2022)

4. Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva Office, UNMAS

Mr. President¹,

This statement is made on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Excellencies,

UNMAS welcomes and fully supports the presentation just provided by the Government of Sudan.

Mr. President,

Due to a number of long-lasting conflicts, large areas of Sudan are contaminated with explosive ordnance, including landmines, and explosive remnants of war. 33 km² remain with known and recorded contamination in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur States.

Excellencies,

In 2022 alone, 2.5 million people in Sudan, over half of them children, are estimated to be exposed to the threat of EO contamination. The majority of the affected population consists of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In addition to killing and injuring, the presence of explosive ordnance also limits the access of the local population to key infrastructure and livelihood, while also hampering humanitarian assistance, early recovery, and development activities of the communities.

¹ H.E. Ambassador Alvaro Enrique Ayala Melendez, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva, President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP).



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Based on the remaining magnitude of explosive ordnance contamination and its impacts, the Government of Sudan, has submitted an extension request for four years to comply with its obligations under Art. 5 of this Convention.

Mr. President,

UNMAS has witnessed in particular the following challenges in Sudan in the past reporting period:

Firstly, insufficient funding. The limited external support that UNMAS alone is able to provide is not sufficient to meet the commitments and address the extensive contamination problem. In addition, the economic instability inflates an already critical deficit in mine action funding and creates ambiguities that discourage engagement by donors.

Secondly, armed conflicts. The armed conflicts that took place between 2011 and 2016 increased the level of explosive ordnance contamination especially in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur States, thus requiring additional resources to address contamination after the hostilities. The most recent periodic inter-communal conflicts have resulted in additional contamination as well as in security and access challenges, making it more difficult for mine action teams to address the problem.

Lastly, climate factors and geographical conditions, which limit the operational year to maximum 9 months due to the heavy rain, especially in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

Excellencies,

UNMAS remains fully available to support the Government of Sudan and mine action efforts in this country. We call on States Parties to this Convention to scale up funding and highlight that not only the availability of funds is crucial to support Sudan meet the obligations arising under this Convention, but also the timing at which these funds are made available.



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Mr. President,

While clearing explosive hazards in Sudan is crucial, raising awareness and promoting safe behaviors among the communities at risk and victim assistance remain equal priorities for UNMAS.

Thank you.