



## Comments on Yemen's extension request

9 April 2014

We thank Yemen for preparing and submitting an extension request.

We have read the extension request with attention, and we have shared comments with the Yemeni authorities. We thank Yemen for its answers to our questions and we recognize the difficult security conditions in Yemen. We still believe that a number of points in the request would benefit from clarification. You will find our detailed comments on the table outside this room.

**First**, we unfortunately see major discrepancies between contamination figures presented in the extension request and data from Yemen's latest Article 7 report. This highlights the need for a comprehensive review of contamination data. If more consistent information cannot be provided in the coming months in a revised extension request, Yemen should be asked to provide it by early 2015. This could be part of States Parties' decision on the request. The data should be provided in a language consistent with the International Mine Action Standards, and be disaggregated by region and by type of weapon. If it is not possible to access some areas due to security reasons, it would be helpful to share a precise list of such areas. We invite the international community to support Yemen's effort in clarifying its data.

**Second**, it seems to us that the rate of clearance planned for confirmed hazardous areas is modest given the available capacity. We would question whether the existing confirmed hazardous areas can be cleared in less time.

**Third**, the budget associated with the request is extremely ambitious compared with the funding dedicated to mine action in Yemen in recent years. We were wondering if the government had already committed to fund part of the budget for the extension period?

**Finally**, we would welcome further information on how Yemen is establishing priorities on mine action, particularly given the competing claim on resources for Explosive Ordnance Disposal.