

Comments from **NORWAY** to extension request presentations

CHILE

Thank you for your presentation and for your very detailed and comprehensive extension request. The remaining mined areas in Chile clearly represents a significant challenge, as they are located in high altitude mountain areas and on remote islands, with harsh environmental conditions in which your deminers have to work. It is impressive and encouraging that Chile undertakes this effort with domestic resources.

We appreciate that Chile has estimated that they need up to 8 years to finalise its article 5 commitments. However, we also hope that this timeline may be shortened with increased productivity as you gain more experience and new methodologies are put to use.

We look forward to see the final extension request and would encourage Chile to include a clearly laid out work plan with projected annual production rates and milestones that would facilitate our understanding of your progress.

We appreciate Chiles strong focus on security for the deminers ad the civilian population. However we would also encourage Chile to explore the application of all available methods for land release and mine clearance that may help to increase productivity of the national mine clearance program.

Thank you

ALGERIA

First of all we would like to commend Algeria for undertaking its mine clearance programme with domestic resources and for demonstrating its commitment to fulfilling the Convention's obligations.

With respect to the extension request submitted by Algeria, we do feel that it is somewhat difficult to get a clear understanding of what the remaining contamination is. In addition, we feel that Algeria could benefit from applying a wider range of methods in its operations including non-technical survey.

Finally, we would like to underline the obligation to mark and clear all minefields and not keep live mines in any so-called museum or memorial minefield. The provisions of the Convention are clear.

Thank you.

DR CONGO

Thank you for the extension request and for the detailed responses to the questions submitted by the Co-Chairs of this Standing Committee. We do recognise that DRC faces several challenges when it comes to gathering data on the actual mine contamination in the country and we commend you for your efforts to get more clarity on the situation, for instance through cleaning up the data base.

We would like to emphasise the importance of requesting only the time necessary and would support the idea of considering requesting not two full years, but 14 months, as already mentioned by ...

Thank you.

ERITREA

Thank you.

(First we would like to make an observation regarding the Eritrean extension request.)

With regard to Eritrea, it is indeed unfortunate that they are not present this week to present their extension request to the Standing Committee and to meet with the Analysing Group.

While Eritrea has answered some of the questions sent to them by the Co-Chairs, there are still several issues that remain unclear. In our view it would be beneficial for the mine action programme in Eritrea to engage more with the international mine action community.

Thank you.