

**Intercessional meeting
Geneva May 21 to 25 2012
Saleh Hissein Hassan, Coordinator
National Demining Center, Chad**

Thank you Madame Chair,

Since this is the first time Chad takes on the floor allow me to Thank ISU and GICHD on their meticulous and painstaking effort to make the intercessional meeting possible.

Q.1 what progress has been made since the extension is granted?

1. The Technical survey

The key progress since the extension was granted is the large scale technical survey with an objective of defining with accuracy the location and the surface of the contaminated areas to be cleared. Chad has started its large-scale technical survey in September 2010 under a UNDP project funded by Japan, with Mines Advisory Group (MAG) as implementing partner.

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- The first phase was from September 2010 to June 2011, two technical survey teams were deployed to carry out technical survey operations over the different regions affected by mines and UXO

contamination. 9 of the 22 administrative regions of the country, are mine and/or UXO contaminated

The first phase of the technical survey had covered 4 regions (Chari-Baguirmi, Sila, Salamat, Hadjer-Lamis, and most of the suspected areas of 2 others regions Bourkou and Ennedi)

The teams have located 32 743 108 sqm of hazardous areas over seven (7) regions the results of the operations can be presented as follows:

관 2559 mines (1298 antipersonnel and 1261 antitank) and 5335 UXO have been collected and destroyed.

관 32 743 108 sqm of suspected hazardous areas have been located.

관 1 027 506 sqm have been cleared and over 49 million sqm marked.

- The second phase was to start in September 2011 using the UNDP under spent funds, but as a result of complications within UNDP country office has not started until last week with the arrival of a new dynamic and energized deputy country director of UNDP Chad who is

in charge of demining, was able to expedite the process and had the contract signed. MAG is under its final preparation to deploy two technical survey teams to cover the remaining regions ;

- **The IMO realized upon its intervention to the flow of people fleeing Libya** (Chadians and Non-Chadians) the fleeings would have to cross Tibesti the most contaminated area, therefore, a rapid intervention team was formed using CND deminers, UNDP assets (of course these assets were bought by Japan for the demining purpose), funded by IMO and MAG as an implementing partner. This rapid Intervention Team was assigned with not only rapid response tasks, but also with survey and clearance of dangerous areas found along their way between Faya, Ounianga, Wadi Doum and Zourake and since then the team; Located 43 dangerous areas with 515 ERW.

관 The technical survey should now be implemented in 3 regions (Ouaddaï, Tibesti, Wadi Fira)

Chad has thus made significant progress in garnering an understanding of the true remaining challenge. The results of the first technical survey and the multi task rapid intervention team has already been consolidated with the existing data and awaiting for the result of the second phase to be consolidated and analyzed to develop an operational plan that provides a precise estimate of the technical and human resources required to complete Article 5 implementation.

Based on the operational plan, Chad would be able to evaluate the costs of the operations and to present a revised action plan with specific timeline subject to resources mobilization.

2. Clearance

Clearance operations are going on many affected zones including nationally and internationally funded projects;

UN funded operations in Fada; The demining operations in the Fada zones funded by UNMAS started last year has ended last week on May 13, 2012 due to lack of funds. The manual demining teams were deployed on the Kiki road to prepare the ground for the mechanical demining machines that expected to arrive in two months. Thanks to Japan and UNDP Chad for jointly funding this machine Armtrac 100-350 to be used on the clearing of the Kiki road, the seven minefield around the city of Fada and to be transferred to the Tebisti region for opening of main roads and minefield clearance.

National funded Clearance; The National Demining Center has financed two demining section to start clearing the seven minefield around the city of Fada. These two teams started the clearing operations in February of this year and will be working side by side with the UNMAS funded teams to the end of the clearance of Fada region.

Clearance operations of the Tebisti region has started on April 30 of this year clearance operations started with five demining sections made of

the 160 deminers trained for the region of Tebisti, the government of Chad has given the order to purchase an Armtrac for Tebisti. The special demining delegate for Tebisti is traveling this coming week to Manchester, UK to meet with the officials of Armtrac for the inspection and the purchase of the machine.

The National Demining Center has also deployed four UXO clearance teams, thanks to The United States who trained these EOD teams on level 1 and 2; the 2 teams are deployed in the East and south east of the country for battle areas clearance. And the other two teams for sorting the military ammunitions depots in the capital city of N'djamena, Abeche, Adre and other cities where military ammunitions depots existed to avoid tragic especially during this extremely hot summer. These activities are carried out by the National Demining Center teams, without international support.

Chad has also done significant efforts in confidence building with its partners. Its efforts have focused on information management and quality control. Since 2010, the National Demining Center is maintaining its database up to date despite several constraints(IMSMA versions

compatibility, operators using different versions of IMSMA forms and/or not reporting to the NDC). Regarding quality control, thanks to the support of the Swiss Cooperation and the City of Geneva, an international operator, Digger Foundation, had been contracted to provide mechanical quality control in Wadi Doum area. Digger deployment started in March 2011 and ended in November 2011 as a result the Western gate of the Wadi-Doum minefield is opened and safe for usage.

An ongoing discussions; The national demining center is currently and discussion with its partners; the **EU Chad office** has expressed it willingness to consider financing the Tebisti operation for 1.5 million Euros should the Armtrac is bought for the region. **The Suisse Demining federation** is working to identify funds to be used for the technical survey of the Tebisti region using the satellite system. **An ongoing discussions with the Suisse Army** exploring the possibility of providing a logistician for the CND to train the logistic; **working with Australia** to allow the rechanneling the funds originally provided for MRE to be used for the extension of the demining operation around Fada.

Regarding the timeline of the extension requested by Chad, It recalls that when submitting its first extension request, the large-scale technical survey was expected to start in 2009. Chad had projected a three-year period to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge but this period of time has been de facto reduced to two years due to the 12 months delay in launching the survey and clearance operations.

Despite this constraint, Chad intends to present a revised and accurate action plan in 2012, based on the results of the technical survey.

Maintaining an adequate institutional, technical and operational support during this period will be crucial to ensure a continuation of the efforts and to build on the progress made.

Chad has suffered from the discontinuity of the support provided by its international partners. This situation has contributed to its poor capacity in providing comprehensive and accurate information regarding the work done and the remaining challenge. The support provided since 2009 has contributed to the progress made. This support needs to be enhanced and extended. To meet our commitment to present to the Twelfth Meeting of the

States Parties, later this year, a revised strategic plan as a prerequisite to a third extension request to be submitted no later than 31 March 2013. This revised action plan should clarify the remaining challenge and contain a detailed annual implementation plan leading to completion.

Challenges that are impeding our ability to efficiently meet the objectives stated in Chad's extension request?

We have identified the following constraints and challenges:

First: The increased needs for survey and clearance operations in the remaining regions and the short fall of funds needed to finish the survey (a total of 1.5 million US dollars, for the deployment of additional 2 technical survey teams for 9 months or three teams for 6 months);

Second: The urgent needs, due to the movement of populations from Libya to continue mine risk education and to again deploy a multi task rapid response teams in northern Chad to deal not only with the identification of the risks but also with any imminent danger to the life and safety of the

refugees. Thanks to Australia for providing the funds for the Mine Risk Education teams for the coming twelve months.

Third; The capacity strengthening needed for operations planning, quality control and land release; and the technical support needed for the consolidation and the analysis of the results of the technical survey and the design of a revised action plan to be presented to the State Parties meeting at the end of this year in Oslo, thanks to both UNDP and GICHD in this regard to UNDP on providing a technical advisor who is expected to be in country this coming week and to GICHD on offering two positions for Chad on its upcoming IMSMA training that takes place in the period of 9-19 July in Geneva.

Fourth; The lack and the interruption of the financial support for the demining operations in Fada area, Wadi-Doum minefield and other clearing operations in other areas

And Finally; The channeling of the resources available for Chad, mobilized by UN agencies, in a timely manner, towards the completion of Chad

obligations, in rechanneling resources to more needed areas than the one contained in the initial proposal when funds were requested.