

**Intersessional Meetings of the Standing Committee on Mine  
Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Clearance Technologies**

**Geneva, 23-27 April 2007**

***Article 5 Update***

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***National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation***

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**الهيئة الوطنية لإزالة الألغام وإعادة التأهيل**  
**THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DEMINING AND REHABILITATION**

*Thank you Co-Chairs  
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen....*

~~Good morning everyone.~~ My name is Mohammed Breikat and I am the Director of Jordan's National Committee for Demining & Rehabilitation...the NCDR.

For ease and clarity, I will respond specifically to the questions raised in the questionnaire distributed to the States Parties in the lead-up to this meeting.

**In answer to Question One:**

The remaining suspected hazardous area in Jordan is approximately 9 million m<sup>2</sup> which can be divided into 3 major areas of operation. They are as follows:

- **First, 250,000 m<sup>2</sup>** remaining in the south of the country in the area known as Wadi Araba running along the border with Israel between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea. It is expected that primary clearance activities will be completed by the end of 2007. Thereafter the area will require several months of sampling and verification by the NCDR's quality control unit before it will actually be declared and registered as cleared.
- **Second, 7 million m<sup>2</sup>** of suspected hazardous area along our northern border. Working in tandem with the Royal Corp of Engineers and NPA, we expect this final major piece of the demining puzzle to take approximately 24 months to complete. A firm start-up date has so far not been determined, however we expect it to be in the coming months.
- **Third, 1 million m<sup>2</sup>** of small scattered minefields located in the Jordan Valley. Based on a joint work-plan produced by the Jordanian Armed Forces and NCDR these operationally small tasks are slated for completion by the end of 2007.

**As for Question Two: Progress in the Implementation of the National Demining Plan:**

Key activities related to the implementation of our National Mine Action Plan under Article 5:

- As I just mentioned we are planning to complete primary demining in the southern Wadi Araba region by the end of this year. The work carried out on this project has been carried out by NPA and has been exemplary. It is also 6 months ahead of schedule, which will allow for the redeployment of NPA assets to other pressing tasks. To give you a bit of perspective on the output of their work. In a 9 month period NPA cleared 63% of the total area, removing 32,000 AP mines and 6,129 AT mines in Wadi Araba.
- Mine Clearance of the northwestern corner of the Kingdom is also ahead of schedule according to our National Plan's projections. The military is working in this hilly and wooded area and we expect this area to be cleared by the end of 2007.
- Our National Mine Action Plan that we launched in 2005 called for the establishment of National Technical Standards and an independent QA capacity. I am pleased to report that both have been created and are now operational.

**As for Question Four: Our Remaining Challenges**

I would like to touch upon 2 major challenges:

**First**, the clearance of our northern border will require Jordan to coordinate and collaborate closely with many local and international stakeholders. It is our last major task and we hope the demining will commence in the very near future.

**Second**, as I said earlier. We are clearing mines at a record pace in Jordan. This has naturally put a lot of pressure upon the quality assurance team that we created. At the moment this team is made up of 7 people. We must double this number as soon as possible so that we can keep up with the fast pace of the demining.

### **In answering Question Five**

The Government of Jordan takes its Article 5 obligations seriously and commits approximately US\$ **3.5 million** annually via the military towards mine clearance and support for general running costs of the NCDR. We also have a good operational relationship with the military, Civil Defence, Royal Geographical Centre, and the Royal Medical Services who all have seconded staff to the NCDR to help coordinate and work more effectively.

### **Regarding Question Six**

Co-Chairs, as I am sure you are aware, mine action in Jordan is managed by the **NCDR** which works very closely with all national & international stakeholders and partners (civil society, the military, the UN, donor countries, NGOs).

One of the remaining challenges, however, is to maintain our momentum so that the NCDR remains capable and poised to lead and manage the national mine action program through to its conclusion. In this context continued support for NCDR and capacity development activities are important areas that must not be overlooked.

**And lastly, in answer to Question Seven: Jordan's Priorities for External Assistance to Support its Fulfillment of Article 5 Obligations**

Following on from my comments to Question #4, we have 2 major funding priorities, they are:

**First**, mobilizing the remaining support needed for the clearance of the northern border. Presently we have funding from Canada and Norway which will allow us to start the project. However, we will need to increase the donor funding base if we expect to complete this project on time.

**Second**, as you have heard, support expansion and capacity development of our QA capacity is vital for us to keep up with the demining conducted by the Jordanian Armed Forces and NPA.

Co-Chairs, I have tried to keep my comments brief and focused on what we in Jordan have accomplished since the 7MSP last September.

*Thank You Co-Chairs.*