

Honorable Co-Chairs;

Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

In the name of Chad delegation I would like to congratulate the GICHD and Co-chairs for the excellent organization of these intercessions.

Chad is fully aware that States Parties seeking Article 5 extensions to a 2009 clearance deadline were encouraged to submit their requests to the President in March of this year. Chad was prepared to do this and in fact I traveled personally to Geneva in January to receive a briefing from the Implementation Support Unit on the extension request process and with GICHD we put an excellent work plan so that a team of GICHD experts will come to Chad in early February for one week to help us on our efforts. Then I left Geneva on the 31st of January and the rebels attacked the capital city of Ndjamena on Friday February 1st and fighting lasted for three days. The national demining centre's compound has been hit in the fighting, its offices been looted including very important documents and computers ,the park had suffered the most, 6 vehicles have been stolen, one has been hit by rocket fire. For the following three months, the national demining center has been conducting government funded depollution operations and doing an intensive UXO Risk Education work. Finally, we have destroyed a total of 35 tons of UXO's and still one EOD team working on the ground.

Due to these exceptional circumstances, Chad could not prepare the request within the requested timeframe. we apologize for this delay and we would like to inform you that we are working towards submitting our request in July. We understand that the task of analyzing requests is an enormous one and we hope that this late submission will not be too detrimental to your work.

Thank you..