

Ph

h

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**From 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Statement of the Government of Sudan**

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen thank you for this opportunity to address the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State parties to the Mine Ban Convention, it's a great personal pleasure and privilege to be here with all of you today.

Moreover, I want to express my profound gratitude to the people and the Government of Switzerland for the invitation and for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation.

I also wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as president of the 12th Meeting of States Parties.

Mr. President,

Sudan firmly believes that, the adoption of the Mine Ban Treaty has been a great leap in Human History, as for decades, these weapons have had a very destructive impact on the lives and livelihoods of civilians.

As you are aware, Sudan was among the first countries to sign the Ottawa treaty and has always been a committed state party to the convention, hence my delegation would like to reiterate Sudan's full commitment to the obligations towards making Sudan free from the Socio-economic impacts of landmines.

Mr. President,

In spite of vast challenges, the Sudan mine action program has succeeded in reducing the total number of known hazards by 87%. However the remaining 13% of known hazard areas comprises 47% of total contamination in term square meters, due to difference in sizes of each hazard areas.

In the past eight years more than 8500 anti-personnel mines have been destroyed. An area of 78 square km has been cleared.

Mine Risk Education (MRE) being key component of our program is actively involved in reaching its target groups in an efficient manner. MRE is officially part of the curriculum of the ministry of Education and 5,000,000 copies MRE School Books were produced as part of School materials for basic and secondary schools. Moreover, 261 teachers were trained as trainers who on their parts will train 2,400 additional teachers during December 2012.

Sudan also provided training for 120 deaf person on how to deliver MRE messages using the sign language, which has been a major development aiming at creating more inclusive MRE program in Sudan. It is worth mentioning that until now more than two million people have received MRE.

1405 Mine/ERW victims and other persons with disabilities were the beneficiaries of 14 Victim Assistance (VA) projects implemented in 2012. The projects delivered assistance in physical rehabilitation, psychological support and socio economic reintegration. VA projects were carried out in wide geographical locations also covering conflict areas such South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions.

Mr. President,

This meeting coincides with a series of economic and political developments in Sudan. Some of the major developments are the social unrest in South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions, the tension in Abyie, as well as the ongoing tension in Darfur, and the southern borders.

Consequently, these political developments, and the loss of more than seventy percent of the oil revenues after the secession of South Sudan contributed to severe economic stagnation. The stagnant national economy, along with decreased international funding for mine action has impacted mine action operations in the country

Given the challenges highlighted earlier, that still facing Sudan with regards to the full implementation of the convention. Herein, our delegation requests an extension to address the mine clearance of the remaining area. Provided that State Parties decide to approve our request, Sudan can declare itself a mine-free country in the specified period.

Mr. President,

In closing allow me reiterate the Government of Sudan commitment and full support to the spirit and the provisions of the convention.

Thank you