

**ICRC statement on Chad's Extension Request,
13th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 2 December 2013**

The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to commend Chad for the steps it has taken in recent years toward meeting its Article 5 obligations. Chad is effecting fundamental structural changes in its mine action program in an effort to overcome past problems. It has also taken considerable steps towards clarifying the extent of the remaining challenge and developed a National Mine Action Strategy for the period 2013 to 2017. Some issues still require additional attention, however, and Chad will require ongoing commitment and support in order to meet its Article 5 obligations in a timely manner.

Chad's extension request lacked a number of key details, some of which were provided subsequently to the Analysing Group. For example, Chad has now clarified the number and size of remaining mined areas as 98 mined areas covering 86.78 km². A detailed work plan for the extension period is nevertheless still missing from the extension request.

In addition, as noted by the Analysing Group, the timeframe for completion of Chad's Article 5 obligations as set out in the extension request is 2 years longer than that provided in Chad's National Mine Action Strategy. If Chad requires these 2 years for meeting its Article 5 obligations (and not just to deal with possible residual contamination that might be discovered after the closure of the demining project, which should not normally form part of an extension request), this should have been more clearly spelt out and may require an amendment to its National Mine Action Strategy. We were therefore pleased to hear today from Chad that it intends to reconcile its work plan with its National Mine Action Strategy.

Taking into account all of these considerations, the ICRC echoes the recommendations of the Analyzing Group that if the States Parties decide to grant Chad's request for a 6-year extension until 1 January 2020, Chad should also be asked to submit:

- a) by 1 April 2014, a detailed work plan covering the entire extension period and including the planned number of mined areas and surface to be cleared per year;
- b) by the end of the 2015, the results of the mid-term evaluation of its National Mine Action Strategy and an amended strategy if required;
- c) annual reports on implementation of the work plan, including areas released and the number, location and size of remaining mined areas; and
- d) annual updates on ongoing challenges to the implementation of Chad's Article 5 obligations, such as those which Chad has identified in its extension request.

In the view of the ICRC, further details on the chosen clearance methods could also help satisfy the States Parties that Chad intends to deploy the most efficient clearance means possible, in light of the difficult geographical conditions and the presence of low-metal mines. We are also concerned by the observation of the Analyzing Group regarding the lack of quality control following demining operations and call on Chad to urgently address this issue.

In regards to funding, it is very positive that the Chad government has committed to making substantial financial contributions to support the fulfillment of its Article 5 obligations. The ICRC commends Chad's decision to seek additional funding from other relevant parts of the Government, to convene a donor's conference and to prepare a resource mobilization strategy. The ICRC supports the recommendation of the Analyzing Group for Chad to provide annual updates on its efforts to diversify funding sources.

In the ICRC's view, the maintenance of international support is vital to ensuring an efficient mine clearance program in Chad. We therefore regret that UNDP technical support – which was assessed by the ICRC as key to maximizing the effectiveness of the Centre Nationale de Déminage (CND) – has discontinued. We call upon UNDP and Chad's donors to seriously consider reinstating this support.

In addition, sustained support to the Mines Advisory Group program in Chad is essential, and the involvement of a second international operator, with an additional funding source, would also greatly help Chad to meet its Article 5 obligations. We urge all States Parties in a position to do so to extend their support in this regard.