

Comments and Expectations Mine Clearance Deadline Extension Request



*13th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
December 2013*

SUDAN

Extension requested: until 31 March 2019 (5 years)

Key comments on the request:

- Sudan made meaningful revisions to its original extension request on the basis of comments and questions from the Analyzing Group and ICBL.
- Considering the security challenges and the current lack of data on contamination in certain areas, regular updates and reporting on adaptation to new developments will be particularly important.

Expectations for the extension period:

Activities in 2016-2019 are heavily dependent on an improvement in the security situation in the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. These are the two most heavily affected states, but ongoing conflict is preventing access to most mine-affected areas. Continued fighting may regrettably result in more contaminated areas than listed in the extension request.

Knowing that the security situation is likely to fluctuate, Sudan should regularly update States Parties on the status of access to, and progress in clearing of, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. An updated plan for antipersonnel mine clearance covering the period post-2015 should be shared with States Parties by the end of 2015.

A number of international mine clearance NGO have closed down their operations in the country recently, which we understand was because they faced substantial administrative restrictions that impeded their operations. Sudan provided information on national capacity in its revised extension request, and also noted that it “welcomes any interested International Mine Action NGOs to deploy its assets to Sudan.” *The ICBL invites Sudan to report on steps taken to facilitate the work of international NGOs, such as lifting administrative barriers and other obstacles.*

Resources are critical if Sudan is to meet its extended deadline. Sudan lost considerable funding from assessed peacekeeping funds when the UNMIS ended in July 2011, and little progress towards meeting Article 5 obligations has been made since then. Helpful details on a resource mobilization plan have been included in the revised request. But given the difficulties in raising funds from international donors, *Sudan should meaningfully increase its financial commitment to mine clearance in order to become the main contributor to its mine action program.*