

Comments on Zimbabwe's Mine Clearance Deadline Extension Request

Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
18 December 2017



We thank Zimbabwe for responding to some of the comments made by submitting a revised request.

We commend the remarkable progress made during the current extension period, which resulted in the cancellation of large areas no longer suspected of contamination, and led to a more accurate assessment of the remaining challenge. We note the important work of partners and advisors such as the ICRC, the GICHD, mine clearance organizations and donor states. The proposed plan is ambitious, so please stay engaged alongside Zimbabwe as it tackles the formidable challenge of clearing some of the world's densest minefields by 2025.

We were also pleased to note that the extension request process coincided with the adoption of a sound national mine action strategy developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

While the extension request has provided a good account of progress and challenges, it still has internal inconsistencies. For instance, Annex B provides a work plan for 2017-2018 but it does not correspond with the table found on page 8 and entitled "Annual clearance during the extension period".

Zimbabwe intends to produce two additional work plans with benchmarks in the coming years. This will provide the opportunity to fix these inconsistencies. It should also be used as an opportunity to re-assess the level of resources required, as the budget provided for the moment includes important increases over time that do not appear to be commensurate with the expected outputs listed in Table 3.

The revised request still does not include information on resource mobilization, but Zimbabwe is participating in a session of the “individualized approach” here on Wednesday evening, and we hope to hear more about its resource mobilization efforts there.

Thank you.