

In The Name of Allah, the Merciful

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR THE SUDAN NATIONAL MINE ACTION CENTER

AT

THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 2018

(Article 6: Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance)

Mr. President

Honored attendees,

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah,

First of all, allow me to pay tribute to the significant efforts of the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance in mine action in collaboration with the National Mine Action Center, aimed to strengthen the mine action programme in Sudan.

The cooperation between us does not only continued uninterrupted , but it has also been further evolved to explore new dimensions and identify various hubs for resources mobilization represented in the form of organized forums aimed primarily at mobilizing resources for the Sudan Mine Action Programme. Thanks to the active participation from the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, the Director of UNMAS and the presence of presidential representatives in these forums and meetings which have successfully contributed to demonstrating the magnitude of mine problem in Sudan to both internal and external donors.

Thanks to cooperation between the United Nations Mine Action Service and the National Mine Action Center, the experience of individualize approach, donor meetings, field visits to mine-affected areas and creative cooperation with the Government of Sudan were resulted and have had immediate results. As such, a host of gains have been made to the mine action programme in Sudan, which can be detailed in the following achievements:

Firstly, funds earmarked to mine action programme were increased. The participation of some donors in commemorating of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action coincided with the proclamation of the three Eastern states free from the registered mines was culminated by collective support declarations. Britain contributed \$ 5.6 million, Japan pledged \$1 million, and the United States \$ 500, 000, along with Italy which had been supporting the programme for the last consecutive three years. In this case, we should like to thanks to Britain, Japan, the United States of America and Italy for their generous contribution to the Sudan mine action programme.

Secondly, coordination, cooperation and briefings that have been propagated through various mine action forums have enhanced the understanding of the mine problem in Sudan, allowing new potential donors to express their willingness to provide support while we are optimistically expecting more members to join the donors' community.

Thirdly, the recent progress which we have seen in the last period strengthened the cooperation between the National Mine Action Center, United Nations Mine Action Service and Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. It is the cooperation to which we place high hopes to contribute to redoubling efforts to eliminate the landmines in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States especially in areas where security situation permits to be accessed and operated in. It should be noted that these two states are currently witnessing significant security stability meanwhile serious attempts to achieve peace are still underway.

As we have already mentioned, we strongly believe in the importance of coordination between the National Mine Action Center and United Nations Mine Action Service and at the same time emphasize the successful experience of the individualize approach which was adopted in Sudan mine action programme and we call on it to replicate in the mine-affected countries yearning for the assistance of the international community so that these countries would be able to fulfill its commitments to the Ottawa Convention for the elimination of landmines in the world.

While we reflect on the successful progress achieved through the trial of individualize approach and the continued cooperation between our country, the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Partners, we should not lose sight of the role being assumed by our government in contributing to this success through its sponsorship and support availed to the programme. A role that has been better demonstrated by its continued financing support with an annual amount of \$2 million it grant to the programme over the last three years.

Perhaps, one of the extremely important watersheds in the long procession of this programme which we ought to take pause and recall is the unparalleled coordination and cooperation which was existed between the National Mine Action Center and the United Nations Mine Action Service which is headed by Mr. Habibulhaq Javed during his term of office in Sudan. Whilst wishing him every success and prosperity in his new mission we also express our thanks and deep appreciation to Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service, for the interest she has shown in Sudan mine action programme and for facilitating and overcoming the obstacles and challenges the programme has faced over the past period. All of these positive steps have been translated into the resumption of operations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States in conjunction with mine awareness campaigns carried out through the various mediums of mass media as well as projects of victim assistance.

The organization of the annual Country Coordination Forum for Mine Action (CCFMA) as a coordinative mechanism among the partners marks a positive point in the level of cooperation between the National Mine Action Center and United Nations Mine Action Service.

The spirit of cooperation and understanding prevailed during this round of the CCFMA considered a real catalyst for Sudan mine action programme especially as its outcomes were fully covered by a wide spectrum of audio-visual and paper media.

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah,