

Statement

By

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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Geneva

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Convention

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Virtual

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you for commendable Presidency of the 18th MSP and thank you for giving Ethiopia the floor. I would like to assure the full support of my delegation to Your Presidency throughout this meeting and beyond.

Mr. President,

Ethiopia has requested the extension of the article 5 implementation period and guaranteed the extension during the Oslo 4th Review Conference in 2019. Upon the presentation of the extension request we have also included detailed work plan of completing the clearance of the mined areas in our territory. My brief intervention therefore, focuses only on the activities since the Oslo Review Conference in relation to the plan we had for the year.

Mr. President,

In terms of the clearing the mined areas as of April 2020 we were able to clear 109 areas measuring over 330 million square meters; of which 10,306,621 Square meters is reduced and 318,216,508 square meters is cancelled. The released areas are in three districts; Kebribeyah, Gerbo and Sagiagi in Somali Region. In the course of carrying out operations to clear and release these areas, a total of 128 anti-personnel mines and 5,812 UXO) were destroyed. All the areas were released using manual clearance

method since the area is mountain and around the border of the country. The remaining area to be addressed is now 152 measuring 726,068,475 square Meters which will be part of our plan until December 2025. In this regard I would like to also highlight that we are doing our level best to present the revised work plan in April 2021 for the remaining mined areas as envisaged in the Oslo Action Plan.

Despite clearance of the 109 areas in 2020, several challenges still remain in our way to fulfill our commitment to make the territories in our jurisdiction free of mines. Some of the challenges are:

As indicated during the extension request, it was expected that the Government of Ethiopia and donors would continue to finance the humanitarian demining activities, which unfortunately was not the case at least this year and still may continue to pose a critical challenges on the demining activities.

The second challenge is insecurity: some of the suspected mine contaminated areas are located in border and remote areas where it is difficult for civilian demining staffs. But as we are addressing the security challenges in these remote areas we hope the situation allow the demining personnel to accomplish their duties in a better way.

In addition, the mined areas are very scattered in different parts of the country and this is also challenging given the limited resource at hand.

Finally, Mr. President, on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia, my delegation would like to thank the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for their continued assistance to my country.

We are looking forward to the continued constructive engagement with all stakeholders and we are also confident through collective efforts we will complete the clearance of the mined areas in a reasonable period of time.

I thank you Mr. President