



European Union Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1428 of 4 August 2017 in support of the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

**National Stakeholder Dialogue: Towards a Mine-Free Senegal
29-30 October 2018**

Dakar, Senegal, Pullman Hotel

Background

Senegal has been a State party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention since 1 March 1999. Senegal reported mined areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Senegal was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control by 1 March 2009

On 2 April 2008, Senegal requested an extension of its Article 5 deadline; the extension was granted by the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties and a new deadline was set for 1 March 2016. Believing that it would be unable to meet this new deadline, Senegal requested in 2015 a new extension until 1 March 2021. The additional time granted was to allow Senegal to "clarify the full extent of the remaining challenge and produce a detailed annual survey and mine clearance work plan leading to completion and based on accurate and coherent data". It was also noted that the plan presented by Senegal depended on survey outcomes, stable funding and the challenges posed by the security situation.

On 1 September 1999, Senegal declared that it had no stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control.

Senegal is also one of 29 States Parties that have declared that they are responsible for a significant number of landmine survivors.

Objectives of the national stakeholder dialogue sponsored by the European Union

In the context of the European Security Strategy, the Council of the European Union adopted on 4 August 2017, a Decision (2017/1428) in support of the implementation of the *Maputo Action Plan 2014-2019* of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Through this decision, the European Union and its Member States aim to demonstrate their commitment to the Convention and its humanitarian objectives and their resolve to cooperate with, and extend assistance to, those States that need support in meeting their commitments under the Convention. The implementation of the Council decision is carried out by the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) which has been mandated to do so.

The European Union, through this decision, aims to support the implementation of the Convention, including by providing a platform to Senegal and its partners to discuss and exchange on the remaining work and challenges that need to be overcome with a view to Senegal being able to complete as quickly as possible the fulfilment of its mine clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Convention.

In addition, the Decision aims to encourage Senegal to demonstrate a high level of national commitment and ownership so that strong and sustainable partnerships leading to Article 5 completion can be established.

The Decision aims to achieve these objectives through a national dialogue between stakeholders. This dialogue will be supported by the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and facilitated by the relevant Senegalese authorities with the assistance of its implementing partners.

The Dialogue also aims to support Senegal in its efforts to implement the following actions of the *Maputo Action Plan* in relation to the **clearance of mined areas**:

- *Action#8*: “undertake all reasonable effort to quantify and qualify its remaining implementation challenge in terms of clearance of mined areas as soon as possible...”

And,

- *Action #9*: “ensure as soon as possible that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.”

Regarding **international cooperation and assistance**, the Stakeholder Dialogue aims to support Senegal to implement the following actions:

- *Action #19*: “Each State Party seeking assistance will do its utmost to demonstrate high-level national ownership in fulfilling Convention obligations (...) articulating the measures its State entities will undertake to implement relevant aspects of Convention in the most inclusive, efficient and expedient manner possible and plans to overcome any challenges that need to be addressed; and making a regular significant national financial commitment to the State’s programmes to implement the Convention.”

And,

- *Action #21*: “enter into partnerships for completion, with partners specifying their responsibilities to each other (...) and engaging regularly in a dialogue on progress and challenges in meeting goals.”

Concerning the capacity to define the status of implementation of the Convention and the improvement of **annual reporting** by States Parties, the Dialogue aims to support Senegal in the implementation of *Action #25*:

- *Action #25*: “All States Parties will provide high quality and updated information annually, as required by the Convention, and provide additional information in a voluntary manner.”

Specific objectives of Senegal's Dialogue

- Take stock of the current situation with respect to mine clearance in Senegal;
- Assess remaining challenges, including technical capacity gaps, identify ways and resources needed to address these gaps;
- Provide strategic directions for the re-launch of demining activities in Senegal;
- Develop new partnerships relevant to Senegal;
- Raise awareness amongst participants on EU actions in support of Convention and its implementation.

Participation and methodology

The Dialogue will take place over two days. Through a series of thematic sessions, including presentations and discussions either in plenary or in small groups, Senegal will be able to collect opinions and recommendations from its partners and lead its demining program towards completion.

Partner organisations and donors are particularly encouraged to share their experiences and lessons learned as well as to make recommendations to map out a common vision towards a mine-free Senegal.

The stakeholder dialogue will produce a **detailed outcome document** outlining remaining challenges, with objectives, timelines and recommendations for future actions:

- Clear situation concerning challenges remaining to be addressed to reach the full implementation of Article 5: what areas have to be addressed and what methods used;
- Strategy to relaunch demining activities defined;
- Measures to establish a regular relationship with relevant donors / operator partners that can support Senegal on mine clearance issues established.

PROGRAMME

National Stakeholder Dialogue: Towards a Mine-Free Senegal Dakar, 29-30 October 2018 Pullman Hotel	
Monday 29 October 2018 09:00 – 18:00	
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:50	Official opening Participants' welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by the Moderator • Welcome remarks by the Director of the CNAMS • Address by ISAD/ASVM • Address by the Representative of the ISU • Address by the Ambassador of the European Union in Senegal • Address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal
9:50-10:00	Break for the departure of the high level guests – group photo
10:00 - 10:45	International context and objectives of the dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the international context for mine clearance in Senegal, in particular Senegal's obligations under Article 5 of the AP Mine Ban Convention (ISU); • Presentation of the EU-supported dialogues (ISU); • Presentation of civil society's perspective on the situation in Senegal (ICBL); • Presentation of the international community's expectations in terms of national ownership and transparency (Committee on Article 5 Implementation); •
10:45 - 11 :15	Coffee break
11:15 - 13:00	National context and Article 5 implementation : progress and challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the national context for mine clearance activities in Senegal (CNAMS); • Update on progress and challenges since the submission of Senegal's last request for extension, and on the remaining challenges in the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention (CNAMS, HI, NPA, UNDP and Chief of a village where land was released); • Discussion
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	National context and Article 5 implementation: remaining challenges and Action Plan of Senegal's extension 2016-2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the updated action plan submitted by Senegal on the occasion of its extension request with a view to better understand how Senegal intends to fulfil its obligations under Article 5 by 2021 (CNAMS); • Identification of strategic objectives to overcome difficulties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Security situation Progress in the peace process Technical capacities (CNAMS and partners); • Update on available national resources and capacities; • Partners' feedback on available support.

16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:30	Working methods : mine action standards (action#9 of the Maputo Action Plan) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder of the methods and international standards used for identifying and releasing areas suspected or known to contain anti-personnel mines, as well as methods and standards for quality control and quality assurance (GICHD); • Update on the implementation of national mine action standards and identification of potential challenges in this area (CNAMS); • Presentation on how Senegal ensures that the latest developments in international mine action standards are incorporated into its national standards to ensure effective implementation of Article 5 (CNAMS).
17:30-18:00	Conclusions from the first day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder of the day's main discussion points and preliminary conclusions related to the objectives of the dialogue (Moderator); • Discussion.
19:00	Cocktail reception

National Stakeholder Dialogue: Towards a Mine-Free Senegal Dakar, 29-30 October 2018 Pullman Hotel	
Tuesday 30 October 2018 09:00 – 16:30	
09:00 - 09:15	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the day's programme and objectives (Moderator)
09:15 - 09:45	Working methods: information management and reporting in the context of the Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on CNAMS information management systems (CNAMS); • Importance of data collection and good information management to ensure an optimal understanding of the problem and as well as to improve the quality of reporting under the Convention the planning of future activities (CIDHG, ISU).
09:45 - 10:15	Working methods : national capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Senegal's current capacity to fulfil its obligations under Article 5 (CNAMS, HI and the Armed Forces); • Identification of areas where capacity should be strengthened (discussion).
10:15-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-11:30	Discussion between the CNAMS and its partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of experiences and perspectives between CNAMS and its partners; • Presentation of recommendations and / or priorities that could help Senegal to address potential gaps in the national capacity supporting Article 5 implementation.

11:30 – 12:30	<p>National ownership and Article 5 implementation in line with actions#19-24 of the Maputo Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirmation of Senegal's commitment to fulfil its mine clearance obligations under the Convention within its deadline (2021) (CNAMS) • Presentation of the key elements of "national ownership" (ISU); • Senegal understands how to establish and strengthen partnerships to address the remaining challenges (CNAMS); • Addresses on prospects for supporting Senegal's demining program (donors and partners).
12:30 – 14:00	<p>Lunch</p>
14:00-14:30	<p>Peace process and mine clearance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the modalities of deployment for demining operators in the field / collaboration with actors of the peace process (CNAMS); • Update on changes made to the demining approach in Senegal and review of the effects of these changes on the work remaining to be undertaken (CNAMS); • Contributions of the peace process actors in facilitating access to areas subject to mine clearance (GRPC, Plateforme des femmes, Groupe des 5, Groupe de contact); • Presentation of the work approach of a mine-affected country in a peace process and / or an international organisation working in this context (NPA / Colombia).
14:30-16:00	<p>Towards a Mine-Free Senegal : next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps for Senegal's implementation of its Article 5 mine clearance obligations: summary of key points (CNAMS); • Definition of milestones for a strategy to relaunch demining activities (civil society); • Definition of measures for the establishment of a regular relationship with Senegal's potential partners on demining issues (Moderator). • Presentation of the results of the dialogue and recommendations for next steps (Moderator). • Information on follow-up possibilities in the framework of the EU Council Decision (ISU, ICBL and EU).
16:00-16:30	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of conclusions and recommendations of the dialogue (Moderator); • Closing remarks by the Ambassador of the European Union in Senegal; • Closing remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal