

## **AGENDA ITEM: ARTICLE 5 - ZIMBABWE**



### **Comments on Zimbabwe's Mine Clearance Deadline Extension Request Intersessional Meeting of the Mine Ban Treaty 8 June 2017**

Thank you Mr Chair.

We thank Zimbabwe for the care and attention it put in the preparation of this extension request. Remarkable progress has been made in the implementation of the Convention, and the authorities have regularly reported to States Parties on progress made. We note the important work of partners and advisors such as the ICRC, the GICHD, mine clearance organizations and donor states. The current 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.

Among the positive points of the request:

- The summary of progress made in the previous extension period appears to be of good quality.
- The plan and its timelines were defined in collaboration with partner organizations.
- In addition to the plan included in the request, Zimbabwe will produce two additional work plans with benchmarks and will share them with States Parties in the coming years, which is an excellent practice.
- There is a monitoring component through which Zimbabwe will adjust its activities based on actual outputs.
- The terrain and climate are not used as excuses but rather appropriately factored in among the risks and assumptions.
- The government of Zimbabwe expects to fund a small part of its own program, about 10% over the period.

Among the points requiring improvement in the coming weeks:

- The Zimbabwe Mine Action Center is already aware of the many issues with mathematics and data, such as totals that don't add up in various tables, and it is our understanding that those issues will be fixed in a revised request in the coming weeks.

- We would like to learn more about measures and efforts to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from mined areas.
- The resource mobilization strategy should be fleshed out as it is quasi-nonexistent at the moment.
- The budget on page 37 includes important increases over time, up to three-fold in some cases, which do not appear to be commensurate with the expected outputs listed in Table 12.

We have an additional question regarding the amount of contamination at the beginning of the previous extension period (2014). The previous extension request indicated that the size of suspected and known mined areas in 2014 was about 208 km<sup>2</sup>, while the request submitted this year indicates that the size at that time was about 81 km<sup>2</sup>. We hope this could be clarified.

We look forward to reading Zimbabwe's revised extension request and hope these points could be addressed. We thank the Committee and in particular the Permanent Mission of Zambia for its important work this year.