

Comments on Angola's Mine Clearance Deadline Extension Request
Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
18 December 2017



Thank you Mr Chair.

We note with concern the significant impact that mines have in Angola. They affect the daily lives of civilians, as well as government efforts to diversify the economy through the expansion of agriculture and the development of infrastructure. We also note with concern that Angola's eight-year plan is not funded, and that the operational capacity of all clearance organizations in the country is currently reduced. We welcome the statement that Angola aims to increase its own resources to address the remaining contamination, and we call on Angola to state the amount of national funds it intends to contribute. We also appeal to the international community to provide the support required to finish the job.

Among the positive points we note that:

- The national survey is closer to completion, providing a far more realistic estimate of the extent of the remaining challenge.
- A detailed profile of each province provides information on the remaining contamination, demining capacity and gaps, and financial resources required.
- Information is provided on the clearance conducted to date, and areas to be addressed with milestones.
- There is an improvement in coordination between the CNIDAH and the CED.
- Steps have been taken to start resolving discrepancies in the database.
- Measures are planned to mobilise funds, including two roundtables with donors in the next two years.

Our expectations for the extension period:

- We would welcome clarity on when the national survey is expected to be completed.
- We look forward to hearing about the progress made in improving capacity in quality and operations management, and in the updating of standards.
- The request provides a useful list of criteria for prioritizing areas to be cleared. It will be useful to see how this is reflected in the work plan for clearance.
- Angola should submit regular reports of progress, particularly in the mobilization of resources, and revised work plans.