

ICBL comments on the Extension Request of Senegal

18MSP MBT, 16 – 20 November 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We thank Senegal for its request and additional clarifications.

This is Senegal's third extension request. The remaining area to clear is small. Given ongoing casualties in Senegal, it would conflict with the promises of the Mine Ban Treaty to end casualties and suffering, if Senegal, which has done no clearance since 2017, be granted a 5 year extension without specific guarantees of action.

Among positive points of the extension request we note the following:

- Senegal has presented a list of contaminated areas by department, disaggregated as per IMAS, and noted their size when known.
- A quarter of the projected budget is expected to come from the national budget and Senegal has reached out to HI and MAG regarding clearance support.

However, there are many points that require close attention:

- We understand the security situation may affect clearance, however given the size of the 37 remaining confirmed hazardous areas (less than 0.5 km²), the projected clearance rate provided by Senegal should enable their clearance within one and a half years. Consistent with OAP Action 22, Senegal should provide an update on progress and present an accurate workplan for the clearance of any remaining areas.
- Some of the CHAs are in the vicinity of former and active military installations under Senegal's military control. Senegal should urgently clear these areas. Failure to clear areas around military bases or installations raises questions about the good faith in implementing the Convention and constitutes a serious compliance concern.
- Regarding the 118 localities to be surveyed, on what basis are these areas suspected to be contaminated?
- Senegal needs to develop a resource mobilization plan and to proactively reach out to a broad range of donors and operators to secure the required technical and financial support. We also urge Senegal to contribute from the national budget towards its land release operations, in line with OAP Action 42.
- Lastly, as specified in OAP Action 24, Senegal must ensure the provision of targeted mine risk education to all affected populations and risk groups, and report on these in detail.

This must not be another extension by Senegal that results in inaction.

We call on Senegal to take immediate action in order to complete the clearance of **all** the remaining contamination without further delay.

Thank you.