

ICBL Comments on the Extension Request of Ukraine.

18MSP, 16-20 November 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We thank Ukraine for submitting this extension request under the continued challenging circumstances and for providing additional information.

Among positive points we highlight the following:

- Ukraine has made some good progress in developing a management system for its mine action programme. This includes the adoption of legislation; the development of basic national standards; the setting up of IMSMA with the support of OSCE and GICHD; the allocation of national authority functions to the Ministry of Defence (MOD); and the accreditation of the Demining Center of the Armed Forces as a certification body for demining operators.
- It appears that a significant portion of funding for mine clearance comes from the national budget.

Among the points that require further close attention and work we note the following:

- Ukraine needs to clarify the amount of land surveyed and cleared by all operators between 2014 and 2020 and show the progress that has been made since the original estimate of 7000km² of suspected hazardous area in the “liberated areas”;
- It remains unclear what exactly Ukraine intends to achieve within the two requested years. There is no work plan. Ukraine needs to develop a detailed workplan for the period of the extension request, outlining how much of the accessible land will be surveyed and cleared by each of the operators, where, when, and at what cost, and share it with States Parties.
- Considering the significant humanitarian impact of the contamination on local population, Ukraine needs to urgently develop and implement a comprehensive MRE action plan and present it to States Parties, as required under the Oslo Action Plan.
- Ukraine should also determine a clear budget needed for its clearance work and develop a resource mobilization strategy.

Ukraine should ensure that States Parties are informed about developments in regard to all above points.

We would also like to take this opportunity to call on States Parties and other partners to support Ukraine with its mine action efforts.

Thank you.