

Somalia's draft Extension Request – ICBL Comments
Intersessional Meetings, 22-24 June 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair,

We thank Somalia for submitting its draft request and presenting it today.

While we were encouraged that Somalia convened a workshop in March this year to gather stakeholder input in to its extension request, we are however disappointed to see that the draft request is incomplete and lacks a comprehensive work plan, a risk education plan and a resource mobilization strategy.

It is crucial that Somalia addresses the contamination on its territories as soon as possible. The contamination continues to have a severe humanitarian impact. In 2019, 32 casualties were recorded, with children accounting for 93% of these casualties. Children have been the majority of casualties, where age is known, annually in Somalia since 2015. This is heartbreaking and unacceptable, and it is vital that the impact on children and mine-affected communities is addressed sooner rather than later.

Somalia has requested five additional years until October 2027. However the request does not outline the specific outputs Somalia plans to achieve by 2027 in terms of survey and clearance. Somalia needs to clarify and provide justification for the time period requested, including identifying the key outputs and who will do what, where and when. Achieving an accurate baseline of contamination would be a key benchmark, and Somalia should aim to achieve this by 2025, if not before.

We acknowledge the complexity of contamination faced by Somalia, including contamination by improvised mines, but no details, as required by Action#21 of the OAP, are provided as to how this challenge will be addressed.

While risk education is included in the plan, there is no forward planning and no budget for risk education included. As required by the OAP Action#24, Somalia needs to develop a “detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific risk education and reduction in affected communities.”

Finally, a detailed annual budget and a resource mobilization strategy needs to be included within the extension request, to ensure that the required funding can be secured.

Should Somalia not be able to develop and present such a work plan ahead of the 19 MSP, we recommend an interim extension of one year is granted for the development of a comprehensive plan and the presentation of a complete extension request next year.

We will share more detailed comments and questions on the request directly with Somalia.

Thank you.