Thank you, Mr. President,

We thank Mauritania for its request and for providing additional information, and the Committee for its analysis.

The ICBL has provided extensive comments on Mauritania’s request throughout the year and this time we will keep our comments very brief.

Mines continue to cause suffering and casualties in Mauritania. Each year since 2018, new mine and ERW victims have been reported. Immediate action is required.

ICBL asks Mauritania to carry out survey as soon as possible and to provide an update on this by the end of 2022, with a revised clearance plan reflecting the extent of contamination.

In parallel, Mauritania needs to do all it can to prevent further suffering and casualties through a targeted risk education program. As part of its extension request, Mauritania needs to develop a “detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities” as required by Action#24 of the OAP.

The ICBL believes the decision granting the new deadline to Mauritania should respect these commitments and require Mauritania to present a Risk Education plan as soon as possible, and not later than March next year.

Thank you.