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**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention  
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel  
Mines and on Their Destruction**

9 October 2017

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**Sixteenth Meeting**

**Vienna, 18-21 December 2017**

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5**

**Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the  
destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with  
article 5 of the convention**

**Executive summary**

**Submitted by Zimbabwe**

1. At independence in 1980, Zimbabwe inherited eight (8) distinct major mined areas that were laid between 1976–1979 by the Rhodesian Army along the country's borders with Zambia and Mozambique with one further inland. It is estimated that the original contamination included approximately three million (3,000,000) anti-personnel mines.
2. The mines were laid on three different types of minefields, (i) the Cordon Sanitaire, (ii) Ploughshare and, (iii) Reinforced Ploughshare minefields. The Government of Zimbabwe remains concerned with the existence of minefields along the country's border. As such, since independence to date, the Government has made every effort to rid the country of these minefields which continue to injure, maim and in worst cases kill both humans and livestock. The efforts by the Government include provision of funding for mine action and seeking assistance from the international community before and after the country became a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
3. The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention entered into force for Zimbabwe in 1999 whereby it was obligated to have completed clearance of all the mined areas within the country's jurisdiction or control by March 2009. This was however not achieved. Accordingly, Zimbabwe requested for an extension period which was granted and since then the country has been granted four extension periods. The fourth and current extension period which expires on 01 January 2018 was granted by the Third Review Conference in Maputo in June 2014.
4. One of the key conditions of granting the fourth extension period was for Zimbabwe to re-survey all the remaining contaminated land within her jurisdiction or control to come up with a clear picture of the remaining Article 5 challenge and make a plan of action. Zimbabwe now talks with certainty of the remaining contamination after successfully carrying out re-surveys of all contaminated areas.
5. The original contamination had always been assumed to be 511 050 000 square metres as reported on previous extension requests. However vigorous land release activities reduced the figure to 223,228,075 by December 2013. Further non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance achievements reduced the figure to 208,993,370 as at December 2014 when Zimbabwe was granted the 4th and current extension period in June

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2014. During the fourth extension period, Zimbabwe managed to strike off 142 763 267 square metres to remain with 66 230 103 square metres.

6. In addition to having resurveyed the mined areas, Zimbabwe has carried out a number of additional activities to ensure progress in addressing the remaining challenge including the development of a National Strategic Plan with the assistance of GICHD and its mine action partners. In addition to this, Zimbabwe has made efforts to increase its national and international capacity to address the remaining challenge as soon as possible. For example, the HALO Trust has increased its capacity to 240 deminers with room to further increase in 2017, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has increased its capacity to 70 deminers while the National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) has increased by an additional 30 deminers bringing the capacity to 150 deminers, with equipment for the additional deminers provided by the ICRC. Additionally, it is pleasing to note that while preparing this extension request, Zimbabwe has engaged two more demining organisations, namely APOPO and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). This will allow for more land to be relieved of mines thereby creating more room for greater opportunities. Zimbabwe looks forward to accelerated clearance rates due to the continual expansion of the demining organisations currently at work as well as efforts to introduce new methodologies to support clearance efforts.

7. These efforts have been carried out with the generous support of international donors and with a contribution of the Government of Zimbabwe at the rate of \$500,000 annually for the previous three years, for its demining institutions and national clearance operations. This is expected to continue and increase when the country's economic situation improves.

8. The drafting and approval of national standards that included updates on land release process also ensure Zimbabwe has responded to recommendations given in its 2014 Extension Request. These achievements have enabled Zimbabwe and its operators to re-survey mined areas under her jurisdiction and come up with a work plan to deal with an accurate figure of remaining contamination. The total area processed with NTS, TS and clearance during period 2014 to Dec 2016 is 142 763 060 m<sup>2</sup>. It is important to highlight that almost 90 per cent of this area has been addressed through non-technical survey.

9. During the extension period Zimbabwe also completed clearance on the Burma Valley minefield. This has resulted in increased business opportunities in areas of agriculture. On the social aspect, local inhabitants will freely access water sources, have ample grazing land for their domestic animals and travel across once mined lands to visit their relatives without risking their lives and limbs.

10. Zimbabwe now has a clear picture of the remaining contamination in areas under her jurisdiction or control. With surveys completed, expansion and capacity building of the current demining operators and the coming on board of two additional international demining organisations, Zimbabwe now seeks an eight (8) year extension, January 2018 to December 2025, during which it is envisaged that at current funding, clearance would most likely be completed. The 8 year period requested is the minimum period expected to do the job with the current capacity, anything less than this period will not be realistic and certainly Zimbabwe cannot complete the remaining contamination in a lesser period unless more players come on board.

11. The challenge remaining as at Dec 2016 was 66 230 103 square metres in 7 different areas and is summarized in table 2 below. The table also indicates the organizations which have been allocated the specific area as their area of responsibility.

Table 1

<i>No.</i>	<i>Mined Area</i>	<i>Linear Distance (kilometres)</i>	<i>Area (square metres)</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
1	Musengezi to Mazowe River	229.00	14,523,000	HALO Trust
2	Mazowe River to Rwenya River	130.00	11,277,700	MAG
3	Sango Border Post to Mwenezi	35.00	17,292,098	NMCU

<i>No.</i>	<i>Mined Area</i>	<i>Linear Distance (kilometres)</i>	<i>Area (square metres)</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
	River			
4	Sango Border Post to Mwenezi River (Cordon Sanitaire)	35.00	7,181,638	APOPO
5	Rusitu to Muzite Mission	71.80	8,702,023	NPA
6	Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill	54.00	7,281,912	NPA
7	Lusulu	1.50	56,000	NMCU
	<b>Total</b>	556.3	66,230,103	

*Clearance Plan for the Extension Request*

12. Zimbabwe aims to complete its clearance obligations within 8 years, (2018-2025). A work plan based on existing capacities and funding has been developed for the period of the extension, as shown on table 3 below. During the extension period, ZIMAC will revise the work plans yearly so that it remains relevant and more accurately direct operations. These plans will be reported on an annual basis through Zimbabwe's Article 7 transparency report. An initial detailed work plan covering the period 2017-2018 is attached as Annex B.

Table 2

**Milestones for progress are expected as follows:**

<i>Mined areas</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Musengezi to Mazowe (HALO)	1'290'300	1'405'700	1'740'000	1'740'000	1'740'000	1'740'000	1'740'000	1'740'000	1'302'732	14'438'732
Mazowe to Rwenya River (MAG)	700'000	802'000	1'100'098	1'300'000	1'500'000	1'600'000	1'650'000	1'550'000	1'075'602	11'277'700
Crooks Corner to Sango Border (Reinforced Ploughshare NMCU)	2'100'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	1'900'000	1'900'000	2'000'000	992'098	17'292'098
Crooks Corner to Sango Border (Cordon Sanitaire) (APOPO)	300'000	900'000	750'000	900'000	850'000	900'000	1'000'000	800'050	781'588	7'181'638
Rusitu to Muzite Mission (NPA)	164'104	984'000	1'000'000	1'200'000	1'500'000	1'600'000	1'600'000	653'919		8'702'023
Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill (NPA)	1'795'000	1'810'000	1'810'000	1'866'912						7'281'912
Lusulu (NMC)					30'000	26'000				56'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6'349'404</b>	<b>8'001'700</b>	<b>8'500'098</b>	<b>9'106'912</b>	<b>7'720'000</b>	<b>7'766'000</b>	<b>7'890'000</b>	<b>6'743'969</b>	<b>4'152'020</b>	<b>66'230'103</b>

Table 3

**The total cost for operations over the eight year period is expected to be \$129.74 million as follows:**

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Year</i>									<i>Total</i>
	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	
<b>Zimbabwe Government Financial Support (US million dollars)</b>										
NMCU	0.60	0.70	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.50	2.50	12.70
<b>International Donor Financial Support (US million dollars)</b>										
NPA	3.00	3.15	3.30	3.46	3.63	3.81	4.00	4.20	4.41	32.96
HALO	4.65	4.65	5.25	5.69	5.80	6.03	6.21	6.40	6.59	44.68
APOPO	0.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.40	3.50	3.40	2.40	2.00	21.20

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Year</i>									<i>Total</i>
	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2017-2025</i>
MAG	0.70	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.50	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	17.70
<b>Subtotal</b>	9.35	10.80	11.55	12.65	14.33	16.34	16.61	16.00	9.41	117.04
<b>Total</b>	9.95	11.50	12.45	13.65	15.33	17.84	18.61	18.50	11.91	129.74

13. The Government of Zimbabwe remains committed to carry out its Article 5 obligations and the progress achieved can be seen in the following factors:

- (a) Low accidents rates among civilians;
- (b) Low accident rates among demining operators;
- (c) Low security risks in country for operations;
- (d) High impact of cleared land for socio-economic development of communities, local and international businesses;
- (e) Areas and size of contamination is known with a clear plan, known capacities and resources to achieve these obligations.