

ICBL Comments on Extension Request by Mauritania

18MSP, 16-20 November 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Mauritania declared completion of its art. 5 obligations in 2018. After recent discovery of previously unknown mined areas, Mauritania has requested an additional year (till 31 January 2022) to survey the areas and draw up a workplan.

Among positive points of the request we note the following:

- Mauritania has identified already 4.7 km² of CHA and additional 3.38 km² of SHA based on information provided by local population and through initial NTS;
- Mauritania reached out to the ISU and NPA to secure their collaboration for addressing the areas in question;
- It provided the initial overall estimate required for the period of the extension request of 5,500,000 USD. It indicated that \$ 3,000,000 will be contributed from the national budget and 2,500,000 USD will be mobilized from donors and partners.

Points that will require further close attention and clarifications are as follows:

- We understand that it is still not clear that the areas in question are on territory under the jurisdiction or control of Mauritania. Mauritania should verify this as a first urgent step.
- Once confirmed, Mauritania should ensure timely survey of the contaminated areas and prepare a comprehensive work plan with detailed information on what will be done, when and with what capacity, including survey and clearance rates and projections.
- Any future request needs to contain a detailed budget and resource mobilization strategy.
- Mauritania needs to also provide information on the impact of the contamination and a detailed and costed Mine Risk Education plan as part of any future extension request.

Thank you.