



**The States Parties Intersessional Meeting to the
Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 18-20 June 2024.**

**Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia
on Clearance.**

Presented by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle (Director General of SEMA)

Excellences, distinguished colleagues, ladies, and gentlemen.

Somalia has embarked on the implementation of its article-5 work plan endorsed by the state parties, the work plan involving clearance, risk education, and capacity development activities in Somalia.

I am pleased to inform you that survey and clearance activities have been progressing well and hundreds of Somali nationals and international are deployed in the field to carry out mine and ERW clearance and survey in affected communities in accessible regions in Somalia.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) efforts continued, and the mine action partners are adapting innovative approaches to continue activities and expand the coverage targeting the most vulnerable groups from the affected population. The Mine Action Program in Somalia along with the operators in country has established a technical working group working on revising the national standards, standardizing the EORE materials, and formulating work plans to reach affected communities. The EORE sector also made progress to develop the first ever EORE **package** specific to IEDs in Somalia and before the end of the year, we expect to roll out the dissemination of IED REMessages into mainly urban setting and affected rural areas to raise awareness of the risks associated with IEDs and address the devastating consequences of IED incidents on the civilian population.

The Government of Somalia in partnership with international stakeholders has made significant progress towards strengthening the capability of the National Mine Action Authority (SEMA), to serve better for those in need of mine action response. The capacity of SEMA in planning, information management, coordination, and prioritizing of mine action has improved. SEMA is at final stage to use IMSMA core system to manage the national database effectively. In addition to that SEMA operations personnel continue providing on-the-job training that help to independently provide oversight to the ongoing humanitarian mine action projects in the regional states.

The Mine Action bill for SEMA has been waited for a long time but I am pleased to report that the office of the Prime Minister submitted SEMA Bill this month, on 1 June 2024, along 14 others to the Federal Parliament for approval. The Ministry of Internal Security of the Federal Government of Somalia was committed to tabling the bill to the Parliament. This bill is expected to allow SEMA to receive national funding to sustainably support the oversight of the humanitarian mine action sector in Somalia.

Distinguished delegates,

Despite making progress, from next month, we will have limited clearance teams to be deployed in the states which will affect the progress in meeting article-5 obligations, insufficient funding is forcing some international mine action operators to reduce their operational capacity starting next month. Recurrent armed conflict in some parts of the country and the increase in the use of IEDs are some of the major challenges, worsening the need for emergency mine action response.

The presence of explosive ordnance among other factors continues to impact the safety of the population hindering access to humanitarian assistance and undermining the protection of civilians.

Your excellences

In line with our national implementation work plan for the article-5 obligation, our focus will remain to define the accurate threat picture of the contaminated areas and provide explosive ordnance risk education and subsequent clearances to improve the safety of the population and their livelihoods and be able access the land resources without concerns of explosive ordnance.

Allow me to conclude my remarks by thanking the people and governments of donor countries who contributed to the mine action program in Somalia.

We look forward to your continued partnership on our way forward to a mine-free Somalia.

Thank you!