

CMC Comments on Extension Request by Afghanistan

CCM 2RC-part two, 20-21 September 2021



Thank you M. President,

We thank the representative of Afghanistan for presenting the request today.

It is unfortunate that Afghanistan was not able to complete its obligation under Article 4 within original convention deadline, due to the discovery of new contaminated areas.

The Cluster Munition Coalition highly appreciates, however, Afghanistan's prompt notification of its newly discovered contamination and submission of a comprehensive extension request, as well as providing additional detailed clarifications.

Afghanistan presented a clear and detailed plan to complete its clearance obligations within the next four years, using methodologies consistent with IMAS. It also included information related to fundraising, indicating commitment of its main donor to provide all necessary funding for planned clearance operations. However, at this stage much remains unclear.

Afghanistan has also continued to provide Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to affected population groups, to mark areas contaminated with cluster munitions to prevent further casualties and to avoid additional pressure on the very scarce health system next to providing support to cluster munitions victims.

The CMC hopes the good survey, clearance and risk education work carried out by the mine action programme in Afghanistan will continue with full determination. We call on current authorities to fully support these efforts and secure conditions enabling further progress in all affected areas, and to provide regular updates on the progress and potential challenges.

We also take this opportunity to appeal to donors and partners to continue providing financial and technical support to mine action program and work in Afghanistan until its full completion.

Thank you.