

Comments on Extension Request by Chad

CCM Intersessional Meeting, Geneva, 16-17 May 2022



The Cluster Munition Coalition thanks Chad for its presentation today and for reaching out to the Analysis Group and sharing its initial plans in advance of the meeting.

We appreciate Chad's transparency and its intent to request extension to its current deadline in order to carry out non-technical survey (NTS) of areas suspected to contain cluster munition contamination in the Tibesti province.

However, Chad's request is missing some essential elements.

Firstly, it would be useful if Chad provided more information on when and how the size of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) has been established, and whether the mentioned 19,049,801m² constitute the full area suspected in Tibesti or if it is likely that further SHAs may be identified.

Secondly, for its request to be considered, Chad needs to develop and include a workplan for the planned NTS, outlining information on what areas / villages would be addressed each month and with what capacity, for the entire requested period.

Related to the workplan, Chad should clarify whether all the previously inaccessible areas in Tibesti have now become accessible, and whether the security situation would permit operations. It would be beneficial for Chad to consider whether technical survey and clearance could be carried out immediately following the NTS if contaminated areas are identified. Chad should also clarify if it has national standards for NTS in line with IMAS in place, or whether these still need to be developed.

Thirdly, Chad should include information on whether risk education needs to be conducted simultaneously with the NTS and if additional budget would be required for this. If this is the case, Chad needs to present a plan and budget for risk education outreach.

Finally, along with the work plan on NTS and RE, Chad needs to present clear global and annual budgets disaggregated by type of activities, indicating what will be covered by the state and how much would need to be sought from donors. Chad also needs to develop and include a resource mobilization plan to secure required funding.

We therefore ask Chad to submit a complete request for extension without delay and remind of the importance of timely submission of requests, nine months in advance of the meeting of states parties.

Should Chad not be in a position to develop and present a complete plan with all essential elements in time for consideration at the 10 MSP, Chad should consider asking for a one year interim extension in order to develop a proper workplan and resource mobilization plan, with support of partners and donors, while undertaking necessary steps to commence the NTS in the Tibesti province as soon as possible.

In conclusion, we would like to call on all partners and donors to engage closely with Chad and to provide all necessary support in order to help Chad to finish survey and clearance of suspected cluster munitions in the last outstanding province, so it becomes cluster munition free as soon as possible.