



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Statement on behalf of
the Analysis Group for Article 4 Extension Requests
(Afghanistan, Montenegro, Sweden and the Netherlands)
at
Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions,
agenda item 6, organization of work**

25 November 2020

Lebanon

Mr President,

Thank you for giving me the floor, I have the honour to present on behalf of the Analysis Group for Article 4 extension requests the report on the extension request by Lebanon. The report on the extension request by Lebanon is contained in document CCM/CONF/2020/7, dated 21 September 2020. In light of the time restraints, I will only touch upon the key points of the report and our conclusions.

Lebanon signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 3 December 2008, ratified on 5 November 2010, and the Convention entered into force for it on 1 May 2011. Under Article 4 of the Convention, Lebanon is obliged to clear and destroy, or ensure the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants (CMR) located in cluster munition contaminated areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 May 2021. At the Eighth Meeting of States Parties (8MSP) to the CCM, Lebanon informed other States Parties that it was facing a variety of obstacles in meeting its clearance obligations. At the Ninth Meeting of States Parties (9MSP) informed of its intention to submit an extension request.

The initial extension request by Lebanon was submitted on 23 August 2019. Following various rounds of feedback by the Implementation Support Unit and Analysis Group the final revised extension request was submitted by Lebanon on 25 February 2020. In doing so, Lebanon submitted an official request for a 5-year extension of its Article 4 deadline up to 1 May 2026.

Mr President

Allow me to take this opportunity on behalf of the Analysis Group, to appreciate the open and constructive spirit in which Lebanon, and in particular the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC), engaged with us and provided additional information and clarification where needed. On the basis of the revised extension request submitted by Lebanon, the Analysis Group concluded that the work plan presented by Lebanon, as part of the extension request, is workable and can be monitored. Therefore, the Analysis Group is in a position to positively recommend to grant requested 5-year extension to extend the Article 4 deadline for Lebanon up to 1 May 2026.

The Analysis Group wishes to highlight the strong commitment demonstrated by Lebanon by fully funding the operations of LMAC and for allocating public funds toward clearance of cluster munition contaminated areas. Nonetheless, the Analysis Group also notes that the allocation of funds by Government of Lebanon may still be subject to change and that Lebanon anticipates to receive USD 6.61 million in external funding annually during the requested extension period. The Group also notes that the success of the plan is contingent upon the ability of LMAC to secure funding and overcome the problem of difficult terrain in a timely manner, along with other factors such as adverse weather conditions. In this context, the Analysis Group notes with satisfaction the establishment of a country coalition in the form of the Lebanon Mine Action Forum by LMAC with the support of Norway, which enhances its implementation of Article 4 of the CCM.

The Analysis Group notes that the Convention would benefit from Lebanon reporting annually through its Article 7 reports and at Meetings of States Parties or Review Conferences the following:

- a) Progress made relative to the projections Lebanon made in its extension request;
- b) Updated information on remaining contamination;
- c) Updated detailed plan for the subsequent year, if possible, also for the following years;
- d) Resource mobilization efforts including external financing received, and resources made available by the Government of Lebanon to support implementation efforts;
- e) Information on Lebanon's efforts on overcoming the challenge of difficult terrain before the end of the extension period;
- f) Other relevant information.

In addition, the Analysis Group also notes the importance of Lebanon reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments as necessary.

Thank you Mr President