

Comments on DR Congo's Extension Request

Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, 23 June 2014

Extension requested by DR Congo: Six years, until 31 December 2020

Key comments on the request:

- The request presents coherent data that reflects the most recent survey activities, which constitutes an important progress compared with the previous request. DR Congo has managed to reach the objective set in 2011 – it has acquired a better estimate of contamination, which appears to be relatively limited (although spread on a vast territory.)
- The request does not include a detailed action plan for the extension period.

Expectations for the Review Conference and for the extension period:

The request does not include an action plan with a monthly break-down of activities for each operator in each area. However the request notes that an operations plan will be developed by 1 January 2015 – the starting date of the extension period. **Recommendation:** *If the request is granted despite the lack of an operations plan, DRC should be requested to share its plan with States Parties in writing no later than the 2015 Intersessional Meetings.*

The national mine action center (CCLAM) commits to improving its coordination system and to finalizing the implementation of the transition plan involving the UNMAS/DRC. The ICBL believes that both the CCLAM and the UNMAS/DRC could benefit from renewed trust and a more continued and transparent flow of information. **Recommendation:** *All parties should make every effort to ensure a more regular sharing of information, a closer cooperation and the elimination of duplications of efforts between the UN Mine Action Coordination Center and the CCLAM.*

The 2013 national survey could not reach the territories of ARU and Dungu in Province Orientale due to the security situation. **Recommendation:** *The CCLAM should monitor the security conditions and authorize survey as soon as feasible. Survey results should be made public without delay and operations plan amended as relevant to ensure the 31 December 2020 deadline is reached.*

The request includes a certain level of details on the resource mobilization strategy – something that has often been lacking in requests submitted by other states. The budget seems to be based on relevant data gathered with support from the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining. **Recommendation:** *Considering the decrease of funding related to UN peacekeeping operations in DRC, the ICBL hopes that the international community will support clearance activities in a way that will allow for the completion of Article 5 obligations as early as possible.*