



ICRC

ICRC Statement on the Democratic Republic of Congo's Extension Request

Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Maputo, 23-27 June 2014

The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to congratulate the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the efforts it has undertaken since the submission of its previous extension request, which have placed it in a good position today to fulfil its Article 5 obligations.

We welcome the DRC's decision to change its survey methodology to a more efficient system, which enabled a substantial reduction in the size of the suspected hazardous areas. We also welcome the DRC's adoption of national mine action standards and a national strategy, while recognising that the DRC is planning the update of its national strategic plan, taking into account its clearance priorities, which we are pleased give due attention to humanitarian grounds.

In regards to funding, we regret the decline in donor support foreseen for DRC throughout the extension period and urge the international community to continue to accompany the DRC towards Article 5 completion. We welcome the important national contributions provided by the DRC national government to cover the expenses of the programme, and note a desire to try to increase this national contribution even further and to draw on human resources from the Armed Forces and national police.

We agree with the Analysing Group that it will be important for the DRC to strengthen its national capacity ahead of the transition from UNMACC, to be able to efficiently implement its operational plan. This process will also require the support of its partners. We also agree that it would help the DRC and the States Parties to monitor implementation during the extension period if the DRC could submit a detailed survey and clearance plan by 30 April 2015 and provide annual updates to the States Parties.