



ICRC

ICRC Statement on Yemen'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 welcomes Yemen's on-going commitment to comply with its Article 5 obligations, despite numerous ongoing challenges including a difficult security environment.

We are pleased that the extent of confirmed hazardous areas is relatively small, and should be able to be dealt with quite quickly. However, we note the large number of suspected hazardous areas and sincerely hope that many of these areas can be cancelled during survey, as Yemen expects.

The extension request indicates that Yemen should complete the non-technical survey by September 2014, and we support the Analysing Group's recommendation that Yemen provide by 1 March 2015 an updated detailed work plan, including a detailed budget. We are concerned, however, that Yemen's projected survey activities to September 2013 achieved only about 13% of what was intended. We hope that this does not set Yemen back too far in regards to the September 2014 milestone.

The ICRC welcomes the news that Yemen is in the final stages of updating its national mine action standards. We support the Analysing Group's recommendation that Yemen also revise its national standards and policies on land release to ensure the most efficient operations possible.

While acknowledging that Yemen needs additional support, and urging donors to continue to provide such support, we note that YEMAC's budget is much higher than what it has been able to secure over recent years. We therefore agree with the Analysing Group that Yemen could enhance its resource mobilization strategy and try to increase the national financial contribution for survey and clearance.

As reflected in the five year extension request, clearance in Yemen has significant humanitarian and socio-economic benefits. It is therefore crucial that Yemen fulfil its Article 5 obligations with urgency and resolve.