



Jordan's Article 5 Statement

Second Review Conference

November 2009

Madame President,
Your Royal Highness,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen...

Since Jordan last reported to the States Parties on Article 5 implementation, Jordan has continued to work on two main fronts, namely along our north border and in the Jordan Valley. These two projects represent the last remaining tasks to be implemented by Jordan, in order to fulfill its mine clearance obligations under Article 5 by its revised deadline of May 2012.

First I would like to report on the progress of the **Northern Border Mine Clearance Project**.

Since Jordan last reported on Article 5, and as of November 2009, almost 19,400 AP mines and 9,525 AT mines were cleared and destroyed by our demining partner the Norwegian People's Aid. Manual clearance was implemented on over 250,000m² of land, while almost 2 million square meters of land was verified by utilizing manual, mechanical and Mine Detection Dog methods

As of the end of November 2009 the number of mines removed in the Project since it began in April 2008 surpassed the **50 000** mark, which will leave less than 90 000, or two-thirds remaining out of the original estimate of 136 000. For us, this is remarkable, 50,000 mines in less than one and a half years does bode well for our future targets. We now have considerable momentum and the productivity rates have increased substantially: we intend to keep this trend going and based on our figures believe the clearance of the North Border can be completed by May 2010.

However, I should qualify our optimism for if we intend on continuing operations at this more productive rate, we face a funding gap. NCDR and NPA are currently



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working together to raise enough funding for the resources necessary in order to complete the project within the mentioned time-frame.

NPA plans to complete clearance and verification operations by the end of December 2011. This can be completed with 18 manual demining teams, 3 machines and 10 Mine Detection Dogs, but will cost approximately \$US 9 million to get the job done. If the required funding for 2010 and 2011 is not met, the deadline for completing the project will in all probability have to be re-visited.

Secondly, I would like to report on the progress of the **Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project**.

Based on a desk review of the Royal Engineering Corps clearance reports of 267 previously cleared minefields in the Jordan Valley as well as local community impact surveys on the possibility that mines had migrated due to flooding or erosion and how this risk was impacting their livelihoods, it was determined that there was still considerable risk to the local population.

Based on this review it is now estimated that a fairly high number of landmines remain unaccounted for by the REC. Presently, the NCDR and the REC have three small teams undertaking limited sampling and verification in the valley.

Approximately \$350,000 was mobilized from Belgium, Norway, and the EC for the three teams, however these funds are set to expire in March 2010. There is therefore a serious need for greater financial, technical, and human resources to ensure the process will continue in time for Jordan to meet its revised Article 5 deadline by May 2012.

Since Jordan last reported on the project earlier this year a **more defined** 24 month project has been developed with the assistance of the REC, NPA, Mines Advisory Group, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, and



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UNDP which will see the release of known SHAs in the Jordan Valley by April 2012. This calculation is based on the use of a combination of 36 manual deminers, 2 mechanical assets (Aardvarks), and 6 mine detection dogs. The final proposal for the project was completed only last week and the total budget is \$1.5 million.

Jordan remains committed to meeting its Article 5 obligations, and is confident that with assistance from the States Parties, it will achieve its goals. Jordan would be pleased to provide more detail on the Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification and Northern Border Mine Clearance Projects.

Thank You Madam President.