

**Standing Committee  
On Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education  
And Mine Action Technologies**

**Thank you Mr. Chairman for allowing me the floor.**

At the outset, I wish to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to Jordan and Slovenia for the excellent questionnaire developed for the states parties which are in the process of fulfilling article 5 of the Ottawa treaty and Algeria is one of them.

- **Mr. Chairman,**
- **Distinguished delegates,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen.**

I would like to use the short time I have to brief you on the basis of the questionnaire, on some of the new steps and efforts that the Algerian government has taken, since our last standing committee, in order to fulfill its clearance obligations under article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty.

For the moment, it is the Algerian National Army which is in charge of clearing mined areas. The Army is following a systematic clearing through our East and West borders with Tunisia and Morocco.

It has to be reminded that these borders have been heavily mined by the colonial army during our revolution for our independence.

The colonial army has planted about 11.000.000 mines on these borders during the end of 1950s.

The operations of mine clearing are funded by the Algerian government and carried out using manual mine clearance method on the following three principles:

- To continue the clearing operations started in 1963 and stopped in 1988 which have succeeded to destroy about 8.000 000 mines,
- To clear some strategically areas which have been mined by the Algerian army in the struggle against terrorism during the last decade, and
- Finally to destroy antipersonnel mines wherever their existence is confirmed .

Since last standing committee and until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, the army discovered and destroyed the total of 113.880 antipersonnel mines in addition to the destruction of 10 996 mines posed by the Algerian army during last decade.

Algeria is deeply convinced that the most significant challenge to be addressed for it will be how to carry out in a good manner its clearing operations in order to meet first, its obligations under article 5, and to meet as well, its timely fulfillment of the Mine Ban Treaty goals .

In fact, the deadline for the clearance of mined areas for my country is April 2012 and since 27 November 2004 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 Algeria discovered and destroyed the total number of 190.858 mines from the global total of 3.064.180 which is supposed to be still planted in our East and West borders. The army has destroyed as well 10.996 mines posed by it in some strategic places in order to protect them from terrorists.

So, in addition to an unknown number of home made mines planted by terrorists in the north of the country, a number of 2.873.322 mines has to be discovered and destroyed, during the following seven (07) years.

For the difficulties faced, I should say that the following parameters may truly affect our efforts towards the eradication of landmines in Algeria.

- Shortage of protection and detection equipments,
- Mines have moved from their original places by erosion and wind,
- High temperature in the South of Algeria which is desert especially in Summer, which makes working in this areas very difficult if it is not impossible,
- Thick vegetation and difficult access in some mountains in the north of Algeria,
- Rock an hard ground in many places,
- Lack of funding.

Algeria is currently in the stage of elaborating with the UNDP a mine action project which will enable us , through a comprehensive impact survey, the drafting of a national global strategic plan including demining.

Our priorities for external assistance can be summarized as follows.

- **Small technical equipments :**
  - Mine sweepers,
  - Earth moving equipments,
  
  - Detectors especially for home made mines with minimum metal or even without metal at all.
  
- **Protective equipments :**
  - Suits,

- Hand protectors,
- Visors,
- Boots

In spite of these major difficulties, we are still optimistic that the objective can be realized to make Algeria free of the threat of landmines.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me conclude by underlining that our way is still long, but our vision is clear, our commitment to the total eradication of these weapons is very strong and I am sure that our objective of a mine free world can be achieved. We just need to work together tirelessly, to learn from each other and to help each other for this humanitarian big goal.

*Thank you for your attention.*

**Mohamed Messaoud ADIMI  
Executive Secretary of the  
Inter-ministerial committee**

**ALGERIA**