



Jordan's Article 5 Statement

May 2009

***Intersessional Meeting of the Standing Committee***

***Geneva, 25 - 29 May 2009***

***Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies***

***Agenda Item: Clearing Mined Areas***

**COMMENTS BY**

***Jordan Delegation***



Dear Co-Chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen...

Since last reporting to the States Parties on Article 5 implementation at the 9MSP, at which time Jordan was granted a 3 year extension of its clearance deadline, Jordan has been working on two fronts: the Northern Border Mine Clearance Project and the Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project that represent the last remaining tasks to be implemented by Jordan, in order to fulfill its mine clearance obligations.

I will come back to the Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification project later.

First I would like to report on the progress of the Northern Border Mine Clearance Project, in response to the question posed by the Standing Committee **“What progress has been made and to what extent has the total amount and number of mined areas been reduced since the 9MSP?”**

Since clearance operations began in April 2008, a total of 14,900 AP mines and 6,323 AT mines were cleared by the demining operator Norwegian People's Aid - Jordan. A total area of 134,516m<sup>2</sup> was cleared through manual clearance, and 961,555m<sup>2</sup> of land was verified by utilizing manual, mechanical and Mine Detection Dog methods. Since the 9MSP and as of the end of April 2009, 6,997 AP mines and 3,006 AT mines were

destroyed. Manual clearance was implemented on 70,797m<sup>2</sup> of land, while 738,839m<sup>2</sup> of land underwent verification.

The project faced some technical challenges at the start – mainly related to the terrain - which unfortunately resulted in demining output falling 2 months behind schedule by the first quarter of 2009.

These issues have been resolved, and NPA-Jordan has responded to the fall in output by increasing both human and technical resources. In March, an additional 67 deminers were trained and deployed, bringing the total number of deminers to 126; meanwhile a double-shift system was implemented for deminers and Quality Management team members, making use of all daylight hours.

These and other measures are expected to bring clearance output ahead of schedule in the second half of 2009. According to NPA-Jordan, the project is on track to achieve its objectives for 2009, with initial demining expected to be completed on time in 2010.

I would like to move on now to respond to the Standing Committee's request for comment on actions taken related to the 9MSP's observation that **“complete implementation was contingent upon resolving border demarcation issues”**?

Although the border demarcation issue involving a 45 km long stretch along the Jordan-Syria border has not been completely resolved, I am happy to

announce that NCDR has received the green light to proceed with mine clearance in the disputed areas, with no reservations. Therefore, complete implementation of the 104km long mine belt of the Northern Border Project is NOT contingent on border demarcation issues.

I would also like to respond to the Standing Committee's Question on actions taken related to the 9MSPs observation that **“additional clarity could result from providing more detail on spot-demining, areas pending verifications, areas subject to desk studies and areas awaiting quality control”**?

In its request for an extension, Jordan reported that a few tasks remained to be implemented in addition to the North Border Project. These related tasks are grouped under the Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project.

Launched in August 2008, the “Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project” was aimed at assessing the need for, and implementing, spot demining.

Joint teams from NCDR and the Royal Engineering Corps had completed the first phase of this project by October 2008, which focused on reviewing and assessing the records provided to the NCDR by the REC on the 267 minefields that were cleared between 1993 and 2007, in particular collecting information and investigating discrepancies in the records.



The findings of the joint NCDR-REC roaming teams led to the implementation of the second phase of the Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification project in November. NCDR developed a community questionnaire survey and conducted field visits targeting expert opinions, community leaders and key persons with local knowledge on orphan or migrated landmines. This phase was completed by March 2009 and provided an accurate and detailed assessment of Suspected Hazardous Areas, identification of the level of threat from the point of view of 54 local communities surveyed, and the provision of clear measurements and procedures for mine action intervention.

An ongoing technical assessment is presently being implemented as the third phase of the Sampling and Verification project.

Consequently, the Sampling and Verification Project has identified a total of 108 Suspected Hazardous areas in the Jordan Valley. Sampling has been conducted in 22 of the 108 SHAs; 15 of those were classified as high risk areas. A further 38 areas have been cancelled by following sampling procedures according to national technical standards and guidelines. A total of 51 items were located through implementation of sampling procedures, including 31 AP mines, 2 AT mines (one without fuse) and 18 live AP and AT fuses.

On a final note, I would like to touch on a couple of quality control tasks reported on as pending in Jordan's extension request. In the Mount Nebo



area, 7 minefields continue to await Quality Control, pending the readiness of a Mine Detection Dog team that has been undergoing training. It is expected that QC will be completed in these 7 Minefields by the end of 2009.

With regards to minefields awaiting quality control in Wadi Araba in the south of Jordan, we have the great pleasure to report that all minefields have been cleared and have completed Quality Control. Wadi Araba was formally declared FREE OF LANDMINES in the summer of 2008, and officially handed over to the Government of Jordan in August 2008.

Thank You.