

# Republic of the Sudan

Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs

National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)

## Cartagena Summit on a Mine Free World- 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference of the

*"Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel  
Mines and on their Destruction"*

**Cartagena, Columbia**

*29 November to 4 December 2009*

Presented by:

H. E Dr. Abdelbagi Gailani, Secretary General of National Mine Action Authority and  
State Minister of Humanitarian Affairs

Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning/afternoon

First of all allow me to congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Susan Eckey on her election as President of this summit and Her Excellency Ambassador Clara Inés Vargas on her election as the Secretary General of this Summit and thank them and the Government and the people of Columbia for their valuable efforts they have invested in organizing and hosting this summit and for their extra ordinary hospitality.

Madam President,

Using the Nairobi Action Plan as a guide, it is my pleasure to report that since 2004, the Sudan has made considerable progress in fulfilling its obligations under the Mine Ban Convention and in addressing the landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination problem in the country.

Madam President,

Sudan has put in place the necessary legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks by establishing the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and the Southern Sudan Demining Authority (SSDA) and their sub structures through presidential decrees while detailed domestic mine action laws are also being enacted. Sudan has recruited and trained the necessary staff who have assumed various management and technical functions.

Sudan has also trained and field deployed 120 deminers since March 2007 for mine and ERW clearance and verification activities with funds from the Government of National Unity and the United States Department of State through UNDP.

The deminers to these national demining teams have been jointly provided by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) as a means of confidence and peace building and support to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

I am pleased to report that mine action has been included in the state budget and approximately 12.5 million dollars has been allocated to mine action since mid 2006. In addition, the government has procured four armour bulldozer, four armour graders, and two medium flail machine to support mine action activities.

It is also my pleasure to inform this forum that the Government of National Unity (GONU) has secured funds from the state budget, the Multi Donor Trust Fund and the World Bank for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of 446 Kilo meters railway lines and approximately 200 kilo meters of main roads cleared and verified from mines and ERW in central and southern parts of the country.

Madam President,

Socio-economic rehabilitation and re-integration of the victims of landmines and ERW continues to remain high on the national agenda. The Sudan has signed and ratified the "Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities". Over the past three years, 22 community based projects have been implemented for the socio economic rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of landmines and ERW in various parts of the country with generous contributions from Japan, Canada and the state budget.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As part of our long term planning process and to implement the Cartagena Action Plan, by working together, the National Mine Action Authorities, the UN Mine Action Office, UNDP and all other stakeholders have developed a three year operations plan covering the period of 2009 to 2011. With the implementation of this plan, Sudan aims to clear 80 percent of all known high and medium priority affected areas by the end of 2011 with an estimated cost of 120 million dollars.

Madam President,

As has already been reported in the past, Sudan has fulfilled its Article 4 obligation by destroying a total of 10,656 stockpiled AP mines within the stipulated timeframe. Sudan has retained only 1,938 antipersonnel mines for permitted purposes.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

With the engagement of all relevant stake holders, a mine action transition plan was concluded in November 2008. Based on the provisions of this transition plan, during 2009, the national authorities have made significant progress toward transition by strengthening and consolidating their institutional and management capacities.

The national authorities, UNDP and the UN Mine Action Office have now embarked on a broader and more practical partnership in various areas of mine action in support of the implementation of the mine action transition plan and we would like to further expand this cooperation and partnership for the years to come.

Madam President,

I would like to take this opportunity to commit Sudan to the full implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan. As this action plan coincides with the Article 5 mine clearance deadline obligation for the Sudan, we will put all necessary measures in place and do our utmost to achieve all the goals and objectives set out in this action plan. In order to fulfil the Article 5 obligations, Sudan is in need of the continued and generous support from the donor community to the national demining teams which are the most cost effective and sustainable assets. This will enable us to realize the goal of Sudan free from landmines by 2014.

Madam President, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to once again extend my sincere appreciations and gratitude to our donor community including Japan, USA, Canada, UK, Italy and many others, the UN system, particularly UNDP, and all mine action organizations operating in the Sudan for their continued and generous support and cooperation in addressing the landmine and ERW contamination problem in the Sudan. I would like to extend my special thanks to Qatar for its generous contribution of two million dollars through which includes procurement of a medium flail machine.

Thank you, Madam President,