

Republic of South Sudan
Report by Deputy Chairperson,
National Mine Action Authority,
M.Gen Nyang Chol,
in the meetings of the Standing Committees
between 27 and 30 May 2013
in Geneva – Switzerland.

His Excellency,
The President of the twelfth meeting of the States Parties (12th.MSP),
Hon. Ambassador, Matjaz Kovacic.
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of my government and the people of the Republic of South Sudan, I salute you in the name of peace, unity and development of mankind. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the host government of Switzerland, the United Nations, and the organizers of this 13th. MSP in Geneva, today.

Mr. President, one of the greatest concerns in my country is stability. It is our wishes that UN agencies, international NGOs and donors continue to support South Sudan Mine Action Program (SSMAP), through its current NGOs, to overcome challenges, because without them we would not be able to realize the goals set by the convention in 2021.

On the clearance, according to IMSMA data base records, as from December 2012 until April 2013, 4,592,682m² land released. 17,127 devices destroyed. 31,760 persons received MRE. 920km roads cleared. 27 casualties of land mines reported. 415 hazards cleared. However, we still have 688 open hazards left. It is expected that the hazards can increase, because there are areas which were not surveyed during 2009 land mine impact survey. Collocation of NMAA with UNMAS is on progress, and the Authority has already developed its strategic plan for 2012-2016. However, there are factors that slow down progress in clearance; among them; capacity development, and lack of commitment by both the people and stakeholders.

You're Excellencies, in the 12th. Meeting of states parties, South Sudan's deputy minister of foreign affairs, reported unknown stockpiled of anti-personal mines, discovered in the former military camps of the Sudanese armed forces (SAF); and the Danish Deming Group was tasked to destroy them in the 2012-2013 dry seasons. Now the dry season in South Sudan is coming to an end, by the end of May2013. Hopefully, in our next quarterly coordination meeting in Juba, we will receive the report from the field and we would keep this forum updated on any development. It is better late than never.

In conclusion, I would like to clarify one point concerning an ongoing allegation of use of land mines in South Sudan. To assure you, these are unconfirmed allegations, we have already taken steps to verify these allegations, and we shall keep you informed.

Thank you.