(Unofficial translation)

Below are the challenge facing the clearance operations of ERW at the desert areas, in the Republic of Iraq:

1- The fragile nature of the desert area soil generates multiple challenges, as follows;

- The desert soil can move over time from one area to another, and through the wind, which can cause difficulty in identifying the areas affected with ERW, beside launching clearance operations.

- The marking and fencing of ERW heavily affected areas, over time can be buried under the desert soil.

- The soil can accumulate above the ERW, and that will result in difficulty in detecting them by the ordinary gadgets.

- The rains might cause torrents that can move the ERW away from the affected areas, to new remote areas, and that can cause grave danger to civilians, especially if highly populated areas.

- The need for a special trained teams and equipments for the clearance of ERW in the desert areas.

- Iraq has vast areas affected with ERW besides Landmines and Cluster Munitions, more than 1000 Square Kilometers heavily affected areas located along the side border with the Islamic Republic of Iran (Eastern border of Iraq), besides large affected areas on the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Southern border of Iraq).

2- The Lessons learnt from clearance operations in the Republic of Iraq, which need to be observed, are as follows:

- Finding new ways and means to tackle the issue of ERW in the desert areas, besides developing special equipments.

- Maintaining the marking and fencing of ERW affected areas regularly in the desert soil area, to avoid it buries under the sand.

- Organizing on regular bases risk education programms on ERW, for both the affected areas and the surrounding non-affected areas, due to the high possibility that ERW can move to these areas.