

Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Thank you very much Mr. President and thank you to all of you for joining us.

Zambia has the pleasure of chairing the Committee on Article 5 of the Convention which includes representatives of Belgium, Norway, and Sri Lanka.

As many of you are fully aware, identifying and addressing mined areas under the jurisdiction or control of States Parties and efforts to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from these areas until they are addressed, is a critical element of “ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines”

Purpose

The Committee was established to intensify implementation efforts, and work with the States Parties implementing mine clearance obligations.

Mandate

The Committee’s mandate is, in part, to review information submitted by mine affected States Parties and to work with you in a cooperative spirit to ensure that we provide the highest level of clarity on where we are in terms of implementing this critical obligation of the treaty.

Over the last month we have had the pleasure of meeting with a number of you to discuss your efforts in implementation of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan. I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Committee, to thank you for your engagement with us.

While it is critical to hear about the successes it is equally important for the Committee, and for all of us, to understand what the main challenges and obstacles you are facing in implementation. After all, without overcoming the challenges, obstacles, and barriers to completion, we will not be able to move forward. In this regard the Committee encourages mine affected States Parties to report on challenges faced.

Oslo Action Plan – Clearance and Survey

The Oslo Action Plan contains several actions and associated indicators concerning survey and clearance.

It is important that States Parties review the indicators and include information in their Article 7 Reports which would allow us to measure progress in implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

Most of these actions are directly related to your States reporting efforts. In particular allow me to highlight the following:

- An important objective of mine affected States Parties, as highlighted in the Oslo Action Plan, is establishing an evidence based baseline of contamination.

The Committee understands from our conversations with many of you that survey efforts are ongoing in many States to achieve this goal.

In this regard, we would welcome information within your Article 7 Report on the progress made in survey operation and on the methodologies being employed.

- In order to better assess progress and status in implementation, it is essential that your State provide information in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This includes :
 - Reporting on progress in accordance with the methodologies used including land cancelled through non-technical survey and reduced through technical survey and areas addressed through clearance; and
 - Reporting on the remaining challenge in accordance with IMAS, that is, by disaggregating Suspected Hazardous Areas and Confirmed Hazardous Areas and their relative size as well as the type of contamination.

Reporting in this disaggregated manner allows mine affected States to demonstrate that they are employing the most effective means for implementation of Article 5 and provides clarity on the remaining challenge.

Without information on progress and the remaining challenge disaggregated in accordance with IMAS it is extremely difficult to assess the status of implementation.

The Oslo Action Plan also asks States to:

- submit evidence-based and costed national work plans and to annually provide adjusted milestone in Article 7 Reports.
- And to include in these work plans provisions for a sustainable national capacity.

We would invite you to report on the Actions of the Oslo Action Plan and associated indicator which are highlighted in the best practice section of the Oslo Action Plan and are critical to the implementation of Article 5 such as:

- Action 5 which relates to ensuring that national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS); and
- Action 9 concerning the establishment and maintenance of a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation.

In this space, we cannot go through the entire Oslo Action Plan but I will draw your attention to the baseline we established at the 18MSP with the information submitted by States Parties in 2020.

Baseline

As mentioned earlier by the President, the Oslo Action Plan contains one or more indicator for each of its actions. This is one of the novelties of the Oslo Action Plan and, in this regard, information submitted in your Article 7 reports which responds to the indicators will support our efforts to implement our mandate of measuring progress in implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

As you can appreciate from the percentages and numbers we can certainly improve on last year's baseline on survey and clearance.

For example, I believe it to be the case that more than 21% of mine affected States Parties established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women girls, boys, and men, however States are not reporting on

this aspect of implementation. There are several such indicators that you would not have been accustomed to report on prior to the adoption of the Oslo Action Plan.

Likewise, only 18% of States Parties have reported on having sustainable national capacities to address previously unknown contamination following completion. Many of you may already have a sustainable national capacity in place but have not reported on this matter.

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The report of the 18MSP also includes the different States that reported in this regard.

We would welcome more States providing information on these matters in your upcoming reports so that we can more accurately measure the status of implementation.

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The Oslo Action Plan also contains several actions and associated indicators concerning mine risk education and risk reduction.

In many cases we are accustomed to reporting on the results of these efforts. However, the Oslo Action Plan requests additional information such as:

- The integration of mine risk education and risk reduction efforts into other mine action activities
- The establishment of national mine risk education and risk reduction capacities
- Information on priority setting
- Challenges faced and results achieved.

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Similar to the baseline on survey and clearance, we know that with improved reporting we can improve on this baseline.

Dear participants and dear friends. Today there are 32 States that have reported an obligation under Article 5.

We look forward to receiving your reports on 30 April and to drafting observations based on the information provided.

Will present our observations to the Intersessional meetings and are looking forward to sharing them with you for your feedback.

The Committee stands ready to support your efforts.