

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION  
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland and Zambia)**

**Intersessional Meetings  
8-9 June 2017**

**PART 1: Introduction**

**I. Activities of the Committee**

1. The Committee met for the first time on 17 January 2017 to discuss their work plan for the year and has met regularly since. On 25 January 2017 the Committee wrote to the States Parties which indicated that they would need to submit a request for extension - Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe - to recall to them the process for requesting an extension established by the States Parties.
2. On 9 February 2017 the Committee organized an *Informal Discussion on Reporting on the Implementation of Article 5* on the margins of the United Nations' annual meeting of mine action directors, in which directors of mine action programmes representing 12 States Parties participated. The Committee used the opportunity to introduce the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties and emphasize the importance of the information submitted by the States Parties for the implementation of the Committee's mandate.
3. During the United Nations' annual meeting of mine action directors, the Committee held bilateral meetings with representatives of the States Parties which indicated that they would need to submit a request for extension in 2017 - Angola, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe - in order to discuss progress in the development and submission of their requests. In addition to meeting with these States, the Committee also met with Mauritania and Sudan on the margins of the meeting to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing their mine clearance obligations.
4. On 3 March 2017, the Committee wrote to State Parties - Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal - which were due to submit updated work plans and provide additional information on the basis of decisions taken by Meetings of the States Parties in granting their requests for extension.
5. On 9 March 2017 the Committee held bi-lateral meetings with Eritrea, Ethiopia and Senegal in order to discuss progress in the development and submission of their updated work plans.
6. On 19 March 2017, the Committee wrote to the 32 States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 obligations to recall the 30 April deadline for providing updated information on implementation in accordance with Article 7 and to stress the importance of respecting the 30 April deadline, given the short timeframe between the deadline and the intersessional meetings of 8-9 June. The Committee also informed States Parties on how it would proceed in preparing preliminary observations for the intersessional meetings and encouraged the use of the Guide to Reporting.
7. On 5 April 2017 the Committee met with a delegation from Ukraine to continue its dialogue concerning Ukraine's non-compliance with Article 5 of the Convention and to urge Ukraine to

submit a request for extension of its Article 5 deadline as soon as possible in order for the Committee to begin its work of analysis of the request in accordance with the decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties concerning Ukraine.

8. On 2 May 2017 the Committee sent a letter to States Parties and interested organisations to inform them of the receipt of requests for extension submitted by Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand and Zimbabwe.
9. On 9 May 2017 the Committee reached out to expert organisations to request input on requests for extension submitted to date, in accordance with the process established by the States Parties for the analysis of requests.
10. On 9 May 2017, the Committee met with Mozambique, a State Party which declared completion in 2015 but which has since discovered a previously unknown mined area. The Committee recalled to Mozambique the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties concerning situations in which States Parties discover previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed.
11. On 10 May 2017, the Committee wrote to States Parties with deadlines in 2019 – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan and the United Kingdom - recalling to them the process for requesting an extension, should they find themselves in a situation where they are not able to fulfil their obligations under Article 5 by their respective deadlines.
12. On 19 May 2017 the Committee sent a letter to States Parties and interested organisations to inform them of the receipt of the request for extension submitted by Angola.

## II. Methodology

13. In line with its purpose of intensifying efforts to ensure the full implementation of Article 5, and in an effort to continue the approach established in 2015, the Committee gave particular attention to the following aspects of the Maputo Action Plan:
  - a. The Maputo Action Plan calls for increased **clarity** regarding remaining implementation challenges, with this clarity encouraged through Article 7 reports, Article 5 extension requests and information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests.
  - b. The Maputo Action Plan, by calling for increased clarity, supports improvements in the **measurability** of Article 5 implementation over time, with improvements in the quality of information permitting greater understanding and comparability.
  - c. The Maputo Action Plan emphasises **efficient and expedient implementation** with commitments to apply the most relevant land release standards and methodologies.
14. Given the subject matter covered in Actions #8 to #11, the Committee proceeded in preparing preliminary observations on the following matters:
  - Clarity regarding remaining challenges
  - Progress in implementation
  - National plans for clearance and survey
  - The application of land release standards, policies and methodologies
  - Actions related to commitments in extension requests and decisions on requests
  - Mine risk reduction efforts

15. The Committee is mandated to “review relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties, including in the context of Article 7 obligations and on efforts undertaken under Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance.” In preparing its observations, the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties in 2017 in the context of Article 7 reporting, information contained in requests for extended deadlines that were submitted in 2017, and any additional information provided in writing by States Parties on Article 5 implementation.
16. In reviewing information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation, the Committee noted different degrees of clarity regarding the location of all areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. As a result, the Committee has used terminology in its preliminary observations in the following manner:
  - a. “High degree of clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area.
  - b. “Clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions / provinces / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.
  - c. “Some clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

### **III. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation**

17. At the close of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties (15MSP), 32 States Parties had reported having an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention. Since the 15MSP:
  - Algeria has reported having fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention;
  - Mozambique has indicated having identified previously unknown mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.
18. Of the 32 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, until 15 May, the following had provided information on progress in implementation:
  - a. 25 States Parties submitted Article 7 transparency reports containing updated information on implementation of Article 5: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Mozambique, Oman, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
  - b. Of the four States Parties that were due to submit updated work plans pursuant to decisions taken on their requests for extended deadlines – Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger and Senegal – only one State Party – Senegal – submitted an updated work plan.

- c. Of the six States Parties that indicated would need to submit request for extension for consideration of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties – Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe – five submitted requests for extension – Angola, Ecuador, Iraq Thailand and Zimbabwe.
  - d. In spite of the sustained dialogue with the Committee on Article 5 since the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties, Ukraine has not submitted a request for extension.
19. Of the 31 States Parties which have reported that they were still in the process of implementing Article 5 of the Convention, as of 15 May 2016, 7 did not submit updated information to the Convention’s depository on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas: Angola, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Niger, Peru and Somalia.

#### **IV. Observations of a general nature**

20. The Committee noted that, of the 32 States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, few have submitted reports by the deadline of 30 April. The Committee further noted that, despite efforts to encourage its use, the more than half of States Parties with Article 5 obligations have not been employing the Guide to Reporting which could be of considerable assistance in providing clarity concerning progress and status in implementing Article 5 commitments.
21. The Committee was grateful for – Afghanistan, Argentina, Cambodia, Ecuador, Mauritania, South Sudan, Sudan, Senegal, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – having employed parts of the Guide to Reporting to provide as much clarity as possible concerning their remaining challenge and progress made.
22. The Committee encourages States Parties that have not done so to ensure, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan, that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee also noted the importance of States Parties sharing information on any amendments made to their national standards in accordance with Action #9.
23. The Committee observed that in a number of cases progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States implementing Article 5 obligations used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nation’s International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).
24. The Committee observed that a number of States Parties could provide additional clarity regarding their remaining challenge by providing a list of the remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each county and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”) and information on the geographic location of each area in conformity with the Guide to Reporting.
25. The Committee noted that a number of States Parties continue to face challenges in implementing their Article 5 commitments due to a number of factors including large areas

pending to be addressed, funding challenges and security concerns. The Committee further noted that it is essential for States Parties to continue to clearly report on the challenges they face in implementing their Article 5 commitments.

26. The Committee noted that in addition to anti-personnel mines a number of States Parties face challenges associated with other explosive remnants of war and UXOs. In this regard, the Committee noted that in these States Parties, effort to implement Article 5 is only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards. The Committee further noted that, this being the case, it is important that States Parties continue to disaggregate their contamination in order to ensure clarity concerning the remaining challenge.
27. The Committee recalls the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties concerning situations in which a States Party discovers mined areas, including newly mined areas, after its original or extended deadline to implement Article 5 has expired.
28. The Committee noted that any additional information provided by States Parties by 15 August 2017 with respect to the Committee's observations would assist the Committee in preparing its conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties.
29. Acknowledging the valuable contribution of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Implementation Support Unit, the Committee encourages States Parties requiring assistance to contact the ISU in order to benefit from its advice and support in matters concerning the implementation of Article 5.

## **PART 2: Preliminary Observations**

### **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY AFGHANISTAN**

#### **I. Progress in implementation**

30. Afghanistan reported that in 2016 it released 267 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing a total of 30,042,599 square metres, including 27,121,910 square metres cleared, 449,116 square metres reduced and 3,055,119 square metres cancelled, and destroying 13,869 anti-personnel mines, 443 anti-tank mines, and 10 abandoned improvised explosive device (AIED) and 148,131 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO). The Committee noted that the information provided by Afghanistan was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
31. The Committee noted that the information provided by Afghanistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in 2015 and particularly compared to proposed milestones in its 2012 extension request. In this regard, the Committee noted that between April 2013 and 31 December 2016, the number of confirmed and suspected hazardous areas had been reduced from 3,439 to 2,485 and the total area from 266.4 square kilometres to 232.1 square kilometres.

#### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

32. The Committee noted that Afghanistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to the seven regions of the country. This list includes the number of

areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Afghanistan reported that, as of the end of 2016, 2,164 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 147,664,998 square metres and 321 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines measuring 84,449,815 square metres remain to be addressed.

33. The Committee noted that due to the need to account for new hazards and the resurvey of existing hazard areas, the number of areas to be addressed had increased from the number reported at the end of 2016 from 2,578 to 2,752, with a total area remaining to be addressed increasing from 239,464,868 square metres to 251,070,035 square metres. The Committee would welcome clarity on the impact of new hazards and re-survey on annual clearance and survey plans. It would be welcome if Afghanistan could indicate how future funding projections take into consideration changes in these milestones.
34. The Committee noted that Afghanistan had reported that, as other explosive remnants of war (ERW) including anti-tank mines (ATM) also pose extreme risk to the civilian population and block development activities, in addition to clearance of areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines, the clearance of ERW including ATM contaminated areas are also part of the extension request work plan. Afghanistan also reported areas contaminated by abandoned improvised explosive devices as anti-personnel hazard areas and therefore counted these as part of the remaining Article 5 challenge. In this regard, the Committee noted that Afghanistan's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Afghanistan. The Committee noted the importance of Afghanistan continuing to disaggregate the challenge of anti-personnel mine contamination.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

35. Afghanistan provided a detailed plan in its 2012 extension request leading towards completion, with it clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that progress in 2016 did not reach projection outputs for clearance and survey.
36. Afghanistan indicated in its extension request that it would annually review its work plan and make any necessary adjustment. The Committee noted that since the submission of its extension request Afghanistan has reported adjustments to the work plan every year, including in 2017. The Committee further noted that Afghanistan provided an updated projection of outputs for clearance and survey in each of the seven administrative regions contaminated with anti-personnel mines from 2017 and 2022 as follows: 69,349,672 square metres to be addressed in 2017, 41,199,630 square metres to be addressed in 2018, 39,049,860 square metres to be addressed in 2019, 32,007,511 square metres to be addressed in 2020, 32,007,511 square metres to be addressed in 2021 and 2,981,779 square metres to be addressed in 2022.

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

37. Afghanistan reported that the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS 05.01 Land Release) were amended and updated in July 2013 right after the release of the United Nations International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.11 for land release, and that these AMAS were reviewed by the AMAS Review Board and approved for application in Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). Subsequently, the Standard Operating Procedures of all demining organisations have been revised based on the requirements of these new AMAS and approved by UNMACA. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had attached the relevant AMAS chapter to their report.

## **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

38. The Committee recalled that the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Afghanistan to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that Afghanistan was acting upon the decisions of the 12MSP by providing updates relative to annual milestones for progress as contained in section 17.7 of its extension request.
39. Afghanistan provided an update of its Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) that has been conducted in 285 districts covering 22,751 communities from which 1,297 communities were already impacted and 21,454 communities were unknown. The Committee noted that further information on the impact of survey results on Afghanistan's annual work plan would be welcome.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

40. Afghanistan reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that this included ensuring that appropriate marking of hazardous areas, as well as providing mine risk education (MRE) to people living in the mine- and other ERW- impacted communities, with a specific focus on returnees and internally displaced people.
41. Afghanistan reported on the partnership approach to MRE accrediting 8 local and international implementing partners using a diverse range of methods such as: the provision of direct risk education sessions to people living in landmine and ERW impacted communities, collaborations with the Ministry of Education for the provision of school based risk education, including a week-long risk education campaign. The Committee noted the challenges in the implementation of risk education including insecurity that limits access to some areas, and inadequate funds that prevent risk education programmes reaching all targeted populations.
42. Afghanistan provided information on the monthly average number of casualties, indicating that the number of casualties has risen to a monthly average of 142 during 2016, from 102 during 2015. Afghanistan reported that the majority of casualties, (60%) were the result of pressure plate IED incidents. The Committee noted that further information on the sex and age disaggregation of data related to mine victims would be welcome.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ANGOLA**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

43. Angola reported that non-technical survey has been completed in 11 provinces, is ongoing in 4 provinces and has yet to commence in 3 provinces. In the period since its first extension request, 30 March 2012, Angola reported a total of 303 areas cleared, corresponding to 23,810,940 square meters, including 717.3 kilometres of roads. As a result of 15,624 antipersonnel mines, 902 Anti-tank and 2,836 items of UXO were removed and disposed.
44. The Committee noted that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Angola used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey

and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared). The Committee observed that Angola could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

45. The Committee observed that Angola had provided a high degree of clarity on its remaining challenges by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area. Angola reported that a total of 1,074 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 103’970’384 square meters, and 387 suspected hazardous areas measuring 141’057’978 square meters remained to be addressed.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

46. The Committee noted that Angola submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. Angola’ request is for 8 years, (2018-2025) with the goal to eliminate 1’461 mined areas within its jurisdiction and control. Angola did not provide annual projections of mined areas to be addressed. However, Angola indicated that once the dimension of the problem and its extent are more accurately identified it would be possible to plan more realistic activities to be implemented, and identify the necessary resources in order to eliminate the problem.

47. Angola provided a list of key tasks to be developed, including the following: Demining of 1’074 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 103’970’384 square meters and addressing 387 suspect hazardous areas totalling 141’057’978 square meters, refreshment on the use, relevance and updating of the Min Action Information Management System and elimination of discrepancies aiming at the complete harmony of data, revitalization of the risk education program as part of efforts to protect civilians in mined areas, strengthening the role of CNIDAH and the harmonization of coordinating activities with the Executive Demining Commission.

48. Angola also indicated that priority setting will be as follows: The first priority concerns the clearance of community areas where mines pose greater risks to the lives and goods of citizens in their daily lives; (high risk), areas for the implementation of humanitarian programs and projects; areas for the implementation of national reconstruction initiatives and immediate priority development; areas defined by central, provincial and local government in the framework of their governance in line with the national and international objectives; All other areas listed in the database in accordance with Ottawa Convention.

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

49. Angola reported that all institutions that carry out demining operations are subject to national standards and the supervision of CNIDAH.

## **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

50. The Committee noted that the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) had requested Angola to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2012 extension request. The Committee noted that Angola had demonstrated it was acting upon the decisions of the 12MSP by carrying out efforts to acquire updated

information on the actual size and location of the areas to be addressed, providing an update on survey activities and carrying out database “clean-up” activities to remove discrepancies from the database.

## **VI. Mine Risk Reduction**

51. Angola did not report on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee would welcome further information from Angola on its efforts to exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

52. Angola reported during its extension period, (2012-2016), there were 351 mine victims, including 88 women, 105 men, and 158 children. The committee The Committee noted that the information on casualties provided by Angola was not disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome if Angola could provide information in this manner.

### **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ARGENTINA**

53. In 2010 Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Argentina in 2010 to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Argentina had indicated that it did not have effective control over the areas in question.

54. The Committee recalled the ongoing importance, as noted by the Second Review Conference, of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods. The Committee further observed that Argentina had acted upon its commitment.

### **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

#### **I. Progress in implementation**

55. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2016, 58.67 square kilometres of suspected hazardous area was released, including 46.95 square kilometres cancelled through non-technical survey, 10.39 square kilometres reduced through technical survey and 1.33 square kilometres released through clearance destroying in the process 1,313 anti-personnel mines , 63 antitank mines and 1,192 explosive remnants of war.

56. The Committee observed that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation. The Committee noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

#### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

57. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 19,283 “minefield records” remain to be addressed with the number of “minefield records” disaggregated according to three entities/districts. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that there are 4,285 “locations” known to contain mines with an estimated 73,483 mine and unexploded ordnance and an estimated area of 315.75 square kilometres. Additionally, 8,636 “locations” are suspected of containing mines with an estimation of more than 73, 483 mines and UXO and an estimated area of 1,091 square kilometres.
58. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations as well as their estimated contamination. The Committee further observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

59. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a summary of its plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline. That plan indicated how much area, aggregated to the national level, would be released each year according to various activities. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided an updated summary of milestones to be achieved in the period of 2017-2018 indicating that a total of 255.2 square kilometres is to be addressed with 165 square kilometres estimated to be cancelled, 76.56 Square Kilometres to be reduced and 13.64 to be cleared. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on the plan to address Bosnia and Herzegovina’s mine contamination including the geographically specific location where these activities will take place. The Committee also observed that the amount of area to be addressed represents a sharp increase from 2016 and would welcome information on the reason for this estimated increase. The Committee further observed that following 2018 approximately 835.8 square kilometres would remain to be addressed.

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

60. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted 3 chapters within its standards: Non-technical survey (in accordance with IMAS 08.10), Technical survey (targeted technical survey and systematic technical survey in accordance with IMAS 8.20) and Land Release (in accordance with IMAS 7.11). Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMACE) has commenced amendments and annexes for all chapters of Standards for Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Standing Operational Procedures for Humanitarian Demining.
61. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina would benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee noted that information on this matter would be welcome. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts to update its national standards in accordance with the IMAS.

### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

62. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested that Bosnia and Herzegovina provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and

milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP noted that, while the plan presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina's request was workable and ambitious, its success was contingent upon increased performance in technical survey, an ongoing, although decreasing, high level of donor funding and the sustained and increasing availability of funds provided by local governments. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina was making advances in efforts to increase its survey performance. The Committee observed that increased clarity on how these factors may be affecting implementation would be welcome. In particular the Committee would welcome information on efforts to increase the availability of funds provided by local governments and by international funding sources.

63. The Committee also recalled that the 9MSP noted the importance of clarity on the part of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding which areas of what size and at what locations remain to be addressed in each administrative area. The Committee concluded that increased clarity on remaining mined areas in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

64. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine risk education programmes and the creation and distribution of mine situation maps. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2016, 4,921 mine warning signs were placed or renewed and 34 projects of permanent marking were implemented in a marked area of 2.97 square kilometres and 386 individual signs were placed. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that during 2016 a number of mine accidents and incidents with civilian and deminers. Bosnia and Herzegovina provides a table which includes information on 11 adult male and one underage victim with 6 people having been killed and 6 injured. The Committee would welcome additional clarity on the mine accidents that have been reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the period of 2016.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CAMBODIA**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

65. Cambodia reported that in 2016, 132,284,116 square metres of land were addressed, destroying in the process 13,049 anti-personnel mines. Cambodia also reported that a baseline survey was conducted in 21 districts identifying 549 areas as suspected or confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 81,830,520 square metres. Cambodia reported that from 1992 to December 2016 a total of 1,544,958,524 square metres have been addressed destroying in the process a total of 1,036,376 anti-personnel mines, 24,251 anti-tank mines and 2,660,638 items of UXO.
66. The Committee noted that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Cambodia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared). The Committee further observed that Cambodia could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

67. The Committee noted that Cambodia provided some clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table with precise perimeters and locations of areas known anti-personnel mines. Cambodia reported a total of 17,652 mined areas remaining, totalling 2,342,137,953 square metres. In this regard, the Committee observed that the Baseline Survey is on-going until 2020.
68. The Committee noted that Cambodia could significantly increase clarity, by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey”. The Committee further observed that Cambodia could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.
69. The Committee noted that, with the baseline survey ongoing, Cambodia’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas, size and status of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

70. Cambodia reported that it was developing a new National Mine Action Strategy 2017-2025 which aims to provide better comprehensive directions for mine action in Cambodia. The Committee observed that, given that the Baseline Survey resulted in significantly more area having been identified than anticipated, an updated work plan would be welcome with updated projections of areas and area to be released leading to Cambodia’s 1 January 2020 deadline.

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

71. In its 2009 extension request, Cambodia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the IMAS. The Committee noted as it did in its 2016 conclusions that, since Cambodia submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.
72. Cambodia reported that the remaining contaminated land will be released through fully complied land release methodology, especially reinforced application of non-technical survey, estimated roughly 35% of the total release. In this regard the Committee underlines the need to provide more clarity with regard to which areas are known to contain mines and those who are suspected to contain them. The Committee further recalled that, given the sizeable increase in area identified by the Baseline Survey, any additional information on methods used to reduce or cancel areas would be welcome.
73. The Committee noted that Cambodia would benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee noted that information on this matter would be welcome. The Committee noted that information on any amendments made to Cambodia’s standards in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

## **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

74. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had requested Cambodia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that Cambodia had acted upon the commitment made in its extension request to carry out the Baseline Survey and report the findings to the States Parties. The Committee further noted as it did in its 2016 conclusions that, based on the results of the Baseline Survey, a single national updated work plan, schedule and budget leading towards its extended deadline of 1 January 2020 and taking into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators, would be welcome.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

75. Cambodia reported in detail on nine main actors involved in providing Mine Risk Education and the actions individually and collectively taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The programmes include the use of sports as well as being integrated into mine action activities. Cambodia reported that it is currently developing an MRE Action Plan, (2017-2025) which will include a review of MRE materials and messages to ensure their ongoing appropriateness and effectiveness.

76. In 2016, Cambodia reported 26 people were killed or injured by anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that this represents a significant reduction since 2016 (111). The Committee noted that the information on casualties provided by Cambodia was disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee further noted that Cambodia continues to provide mine risk education in a manner consistent with Action #10 of the Maputo Action Plan.

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CHAD**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

77. Chad reported that in 2016, 94 anti-personnel mines were destroyed and demining activities were carried out in Zouar, Zouarké in Tibesti. Chad further reported that 649,432 square metres were demined and “verified”. The Committee noted that, while indicating that some demining had taken place in 2016, information provided did not indicate precisely which of the 123 remaining areas have been addressed and progress did not include information on demining activities in the Borkou and Ennedi regions as indicated by Chad’s plan of action 2014-2019. The Committee noted that Chad could significantly clarify progress in implementation by reporting in a manner that permitted comparability with the information in this plan.

78. The Committee noted that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Chad used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared). The Committee observed that Chad could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

79. The Committee noted that Chad provided some clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table with precise perimeters and locations of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee recalled that Chad, in its provisional plan of action 2014-

2019, indicated that, as of May 2014, 123 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 104,542,233 square metres remained to be addressed and that the northern part of the Tibesti region remained to be surveyed. In this regard, Chad reported that in 2015, 14 new hazardous areas had been identified as a result of non-technical survey activities in the Tibesti and in the south of the country. Chad further reported that, as of the end of May 2015, 123 areas were known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

80. The Committee noted that, with survey activities ongoing, Chad's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the exact number (127 or 123), respective geographical locations and sizes of all areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations, including by providing a detailed list of the newly discovered areas as well as further efforts by Chad to survey and identify mined areas. The Committee further observed that Chad could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

81. Further to the decisions of the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP), in May 2014 Chad provided a provisional plan leading towards completion by its 1 January 2020 deadline, with this plan summarising which activities (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance) would take place in each region during various periods of time leading to 1 December 2019, and at what cost. The Committee noted that an updated work plan, including detailed geographical milestones to be achieved in the years leading to Chad's deadline in 1 January 2020, would be welcome.
82. The Committee recalled that the risk factors mentioned in Chad's provisional plan, including political stability and security, remain factors that may affect the implementation of Chad's plan for completion. The Committee further noted that survey results will affect implementation of Chad's plan.
83. The Committee noted that success in implementing Chad's provisional plan would require that Chad mobilises significantly more external resources than in the recent past. Other than a contribution from the European Union (PADEMIN project), Chad has not reported on any other external contribution and the Committee noted that information on Chad's efforts to mobilise other resources and the results of these efforts would be welcome.

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

84. In its 2013 extension request, Chad provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee noted that since Chad submitted its request the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.
85. The Committee noted that Chad may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee noted that information on any amendments made to Chad's standards in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

86. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) requested that Chad inform the States Parties, by the end of 2015, of the results of the mid-term evaluation of its strategy, including, if necessary, providing an updated strategy that takes into account new information. In addition, the 13MSP requested that Chad inform States Parties on an annual basis of issues concerning clarity on the remaining Article 5 challenge, efforts to diversify funding, efforts to address inadequacies in information management, and of weather conditions which had previously impeded the timely implementation of the Convention by Chad and which continued to affect the fulfilment of Chad's obligations. The Committee noted that information on these actions and factors would be welcome.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

87. In 2016, Chad reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes in a region (région du lac) that has not been reported previously to contain areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that clarity on this issue would be welcome. The Committee further noted that Chad had provided information on the beneficiaries of these actions disaggregated according to gender.

88. Chad reported that in 2016, twelve victims had been recorded. The Committee noted that the information on casualties provided by Chad was gender and age disaggregated.

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY COLOMBIA**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

89. Colombia reported that, in 2016, 287,661 square metres of area known to contain anti-personnel mines were cleared and that 210 mines and 14 items of unexploded ordnance were found and destroyed. Colombia reported that at present 8 municipalities are free of suspicions of mines with a total area of 947,639 square meters having been cleared destroying 724 "artefacts" in the process. Colombia reported that in an additional 29 municipalities where mine action operations have taken place or are currently taking place a total of 1,775,114.02 square meters have been addressed with a total of 1,205 "artefacts" having been destroyed.

90. The Committee concluded that, as Colombia progressively obtains more clarity regarding its remaining challenge and is able to develop plans accordingly, greater measurability of progress in implementation over time could be possible. The Committee further concluded that it would welcome information on progress from Colombia to determine the extent of the problem including by reporting on results of non-technical survey efforts.

91. The Committee noted that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Colombia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared). The Committee further observed that Colombia could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

92. Colombia estimates that the remaining suspected contamination totals 51'244'350 square metres. Colombia indicated that this amount of suspected hazardous areas has been calculated considering the following:
- a. "Events" in Colombia's information management system have been divided into two periods, 1990–2009 and 2010–2015. For both these periods, events that are "open" have been considered.
  - b. Based on the results of current humanitarian demining operation, 15% of events from the first period (1990-2009) and 20% of events from the second period (2010-2015) are anticipated to generate a confirmed hazardous area (CHA).
  - c. An additional 20% has been added to both periods anticipating CHAs which will be located during non-technical survey, again based on results of current humanitarian demining operations.
  - d. For each possible CHA, an estimated area of 5'000 square metres has been calculated.
93. The Committee observed that information previously submitted by Colombia indicated that by the end of 2015 Colombia suspected the same amount of suspected contamination remaining to be addressed as it is reporting for the end of 2016. The Committee would welcome an updates figure from Colombia concerning its remaining contamination.
94. Colombia reported that in 2016 it carried out non-technical survey in 456 rural districts (veredas) identifying a total of 104 confirmed hazardous areas. The Committee observed that Colombia's updated plan it indicated that from 2014-2016 Non-Technical Survey has been carried out in 1,270 areas leading to the identification of 418 Confirmed Hazardous Areas. The Committee noted that it would welcome information on how this affects the total contamination picture in Colombia.
95. The Committee concluded that Colombia has provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table listing, for each Colombian department, the number of events. The Committee concluded that additional information would be welcome on the size and location of "events" that have been reclassified, as noted in Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, as those that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance or those that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.
96. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing the remaining challenge would be further clarified and that it would be welcomed if Colombia would continue to present more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

97. Colombia reported that for 2016-2018 it intends to intervene in 207 municipalities with a total expected contamination of 24,259,613 square meters. Colombia reported that for 2017 a total of 36 municipalities will have mine action interventions in 707 rural districts (veredas). The Committee indicated that it would welcome additional information on the efforts that will be carried out in these municipalities as well as a timelines for these activities.
98. Colombia reported that in 2016 the Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade was activated with close to 5,200 men, the capacity of Explosive and Demining Marines was augmented from 106 to 183 people, 4 civilian organizations were accredited and the capacity for external quality

monitoring of humanitarian demining operations was expanded from 17 to 48 monitors. The Committee would welcome additional information on how this will impact the overall efforts of meeting Colombia's deadline of 2021.

99. The Committee observed that continued updates on its plan as Colombia gains clarity of its Article 5 challenge would be welcomed.

#### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

100. Colombia reported in its 2014 National Demining Plan that it undertakes activities in accordance with the IMAS and that Colombia makes use of, in a linear manner, non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.

#### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

101. The Committee recalled that the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) had requested that Colombia provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 10MSP had requested that Colombia submit to the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties a revised implementation plan that contains and takes into account a clearer and more substantiated understanding of the location and nature of contamination and that includes revised annual projections of which areas would be addressed when and how. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon the decisions of the 10MSP by providing an updated plan to the 2014 Third Review Conference and keeping the States Parties informed on progress in implementation.

#### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

102. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Colombia on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Colombia reported that in 2016 a total of 84 people were injured or killed by anti-personnel mines (1 girl, 2 women, 6 boys and 75 men). The Committee concluded that the information provided by Colombia was gender and age disaggregated.

### **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CROATIA**

#### **I. Progress in implementation**

103. Croatia reported that, in 2016, it addressed a total of 41,468,445 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 38,263,980 square metres cleared as well as 3,204,465 square metres reduced and cancelled. These efforts resulted in the destruction of 1,536 anti-personnel mines, 542 anti-vehicle mines and 11,780 items of unexploded ordnance. In addition, the Croatian armed forces reported to clear an area of military facilities measuring 454,917 square metres.

104. The Committee observed that Croatia could more clearly present implementation progress by using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e., land that is cancelled, reduced or cleared). The Committee observed that Croatia could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

105. The Committee noted that Croatia had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing the number of remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to 10 counties and military facilities. Croatia reported that, as of the end of 2016, areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling approximately 446 square kilometres of “mine suspected area”, remained to be addressed. The Committee would welcome clarity on Croatia’s remaining challenge given that at the end of 2015 a total of 467.4 square kilometres remained to be addressed and that over the course of 2016 it addressed 41.5 square kilometres.
106. The Committee observed that Croatia could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of the remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each county and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”) and information on the geographic location of each area. In this context, the Committee would find it valuable if Croatia could clarify the status of the military facilities (i.e. are they included in the number of 446 “mine suspected areas”) and also clarify if the “mine suspected areas” include both “suspected hazardous areas” and “confirmed hazardous areas”. The Committee further observed that Croatia could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.
107. The Committee also observed that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

108. Croatia provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion with this plan clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide an updated projection of the number of areas and amount of area to be cleared and reduced in each region and in each year between 2017 and 2019.
109. In 2015, Croatia reported that it had an ongoing project financed by the EU for demining of agricultural land with the totality of agricultural land in Croatia to be cleared by 2016 (50 square kilometres). Croatia further reported that with the funds that the government was making available and funds from the Croatian forest company, Croatia would target known minefields in the forest areas and reduce additional land through non-technical and technical survey projects..

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

110. The Committee recalled that in its 2008 extension request, Croatia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards based on the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee also recalled that in October 2015, the Croatian Parliament adopted a new law regulating mine action, giving the Croatian Mine Action Centre more possibilities to reduce suspected hazardous areas by using technical survey which was not possible under the previous law and that new regulations and standard operating procedures are currently being elaborated which will prescribe in detail how mine action activities will take place in the field. As in its 2015 conclusion, the Committee observed that information on these new regulations and standards operating procedures would be welcome.

## **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

111. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Croatia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled specifically that the 9MSP had requested Croatia to provide updates on its methodology to address forested areas suspected to contain mines. Croatia reported that it has so far prioritized its clearance operations on areas that will enable the return of displaced people and economic development. At the same time, Croatia is working on technology for hyperspectral non-technical survey employing unmanned aerial vehicles with the aim to better analyse and define suspected hazardous areas in forested areas. As in its 2015 conclusions, the Committee observed that further information on this effort by Croatia would be welcomed.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

112. Croatia has reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programs. Croatia has reported that it works with a number of diverse organisations to spread safety messages which seek to inform as many citizens at local and national levels as possible. Croatia reported that, in 2016, there were 5 mine accidents involving 6 deminers, three of which were killed and four with light injuries. Croatia reported that the annual rate of mine victims increased by four in relation to 2015. The Committee noted that information on victims disaggregated by gender and age would be welcome.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CYPRUS**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

113. Cyprus reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Cyprus, in 2012, to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control – namely that Cyprus had indicated that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question – has not changed and that Cyprus was not aware of any progress in implementation that had occurred. In total, between entry into force of the Convention and its original 1 July 2013 deadline, Cyprus has addressed all 20 mined areas under its effective control.

### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

114. Cyprus reported that since July 2013 there are no anti-personnel mines laid in the minefields of the National Guard on territory under the effective control of Cyprus. Cyprus reported that the only known mined areas are located in the part of its territory outside of its effective control and that at least 20 mined areas are yet to be cleared of anti-personnel mines, with one of these areas located within the buffer zone, in the vicinity of the village Deryneia.

115. Cyprus reported that it has taken concrete steps to ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in minefields and submitted to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus information on 28 known mined areas and that, according to information released by UNFICYP, those 28 minefields were subject to non-technical survey by the United National Mine Action Service, and according to its assessment only 3 of them require further technical survey.

### **III. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

116. The Committee recalled the ongoing importance, as noted by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods. The Committee observed that Cyprus had acted upon its commitment.

### **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ECUADOR**

#### **I. Progress in implementation**

117. Ecuador reported that, in 2016, it has addressed a total of 1 area clearing a total of 1,410 square meters and cancelling a total of 3,267 square metres for a total area addressed of 4,677 square metres of areas. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Ecuador in 1999, Ecuador has addressed 178 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 498,508.38 square metres and destroying 11,491 anti-personnel mines.

118. The Committee observed that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation. The Committee noted the importance of Ecuador continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

#### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

119. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of remaining objectives known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, and including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), the types and quantity of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Ecuador reported that, as of the end of 2016, 59 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 132, 976 square metres containing 4,125 anti-personnel mines remained to be addressed.

120. The Committee observed that Ecuador had indicated that it has identified 26 new suspected hazardous areas with a total of 7,521 square meters which include registries of the mined areas and the number of mines. Ecuador further reports that these new areas do not include coordinates or points of reference. Ecuador further reports that these areas have been included in the objective “Varios\_ZCH” for verification.

121. The Committee observed that Ecuador could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing annually a list of the remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each county and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”) and information on the geographic location of each area. The Committee also observed that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

122. The Committee noted that Ecuador submitted a request for extension in 2017 to be considered by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in which it provided a five year work plan, (2018-2022) indicating what geographical and quantified results were expected when, how, and by whom. Ecuador reported in its request that it plans to address all suspect hazardous areas in accessible areas by the end of 2022, targeting 2 areas measuring 32,480 square metres in 2018, 9 areas measuring 26,159,000 square metres in 2019, 10 areas measuring 12,555 square metres in 2020, 10 areas measuring 8,431 square metres in 2021 and, 26 areas measuring 10,340 square metres in 2022.

123. Ecuador reported that the pending area to be released of the “Square Kilometre of Tiwintza” will be planned and carried out in prior coordination with Peru, as the humanitarian demining operations will be carried out by the Bi-national Demining Unit Ecuador – Peru.

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

124. The Committee observed that in its request submitted in 2017 extension request Ecuador provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Manual on Technical Survey Procedure of Ecuador. Ecuador further reported on the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey.

### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

125. The Committee recalled that the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Ecuador to submit a detailed request, in accordance with the established process, by 31 March 2017, in order for Ecuador and the States Parties to benefit from a cooperative exchange on the request. The Committee observed that Ecuador had acted on its commitment to submit a detailed request by 31 March 2017.

### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

126. Ecuador has reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. Ecuador reported that the objectives of these efforts are not solely to prevent injury or death, promoting safe behaviour, but also to find solutions to risky behaviour in some affected communities. Ecuador reported that a third binational campaign on mine risk education was held in the community of Santa Maria de Nieva in Condorcanqui Province. Ecuador further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2016.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ETHIOPIA**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

127. Ethiopia reported that, in 2016, 30 items of ordnance identified through reports from the public including 10 antitank mines and 20 items of unexploded ordnance were destroyed. The Committee noted that limited activities were carried out by Ethiopia in the implementation of the plan presented in its 2015 request for extension.

128. The Committee noted that the information provided by Ethiopia on progress in implementation did not permit comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2015 extension request. The Committee noted in particular that information on progress in implementation of article 5 and the projected milestones defined in its extension request are missing and would be welcome. When doing so Ethiopia is encouraged to use terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared). The Committee further observed that Ethiopia could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

129. The Committee noted that Ethiopia had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing the number of remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to six regions of the country including 45 area known to contain anti-personnel mines in five regions (Tigray (3 mined areas), Afar (6 mined areas), Somali (26 mined areas), Beneshangule Gumez (2 mined areas) and Oromia (8 mined areas)) and 269 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) in four regions (Afar Region (8 SHAs), Somali (236 SHAs), Oromi (5 SHAs), Gambela (20 SHAs)).

130. The Committee noted that Ethiopia could significantly increase clarity, by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey”. The Committee observed that Ethiopia could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

131. The Committee noted that, with survey activities ongoing, Ethiopia’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

132. The Committee noted that Ethiopia provided a detailed plan in its 2015 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 June 2020 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how and by whom and at what cost. The Committee noted that Ethiopia did not report having released the areas that had been forecast in its extension request and did not provide any information on article 5 implementation.

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

133. The Committee recalled that in its 2015 extension request, Ethiopia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that it employs “National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and Standard Operating Procedures which, with the support of Norwegian People’s Aid, had been updated in accordance with amendments to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).”

134. The Committee noted that Ethiopia may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, continue to be applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee noted that information on this matter would be welcome.

#### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

135. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested Ethiopia to provide updates on progress relative to a number of commitments contained in section 14 of its extension request including outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ethiopia's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge; updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in terms of suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas in line with the IMAS; update on the development of plans to carry out survey activities on the Eritrean/Ethiopian border; resource mobilization efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Ethiopia to support implementation, and efforts to attract international mine action operators or advisors to offer technical support to Ethiopia, and; changes to the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation. The Committee noted that Ethiopia has not acted in accordance with the 14MSP decision and that information on these actions and commitments would be welcome.

136. The Committee further recalled that the 14MSP noted that Ethiopia provided a detailed work plan in its request up until the end of 2017 and noted that it would be beneficial if Ethiopia would submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2017, an updated work plan including an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and a detailed budget. The Committee observed that as of 25 May 2017 an updated work plan has not been submitted by Ethiopia. The Committee further observed that an updated work plan would be welcome.

#### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

137. The Committee noted that Ethiopia did not report on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee would welcome information on this matter.

### **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY IRAQ**

#### **I. Progress in implementation**

138. Iraq reported that, in 2016, it addressed a total of 28,825,692 square metres, with 13,753,075 square metres of clearance identified as mine fields and 14,237,346 square metres as mixed contamination areas and 835,270 square metres comprised of anti-tank contamination. Iraq reported that through these efforts a total of 42,393 devices were destroyed.

139. The Committee also noted that the information shared by Iraq could be further clarified by using terminology consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e., land that is cancelled, reduced or cleared).

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

140. The Committee concluded that Iraq provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, and including in this list the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e. “known” or “suspected”), the types and quantity, when known, of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area.

141. Iraq reported that a total of 3,554 hazardous areas measuring 1,195,565,730 square metres remain to be addressed. This consists of 2,897 areas confirmed to be hazardous representing 963,556,422 square metres and 657 areas suspected to be hazardous measuring 232,009,310 square metres.

142. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Iraq’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information, to the extent possible, on the number and size of areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

143. The Committee noted that Iraq submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. In the request Iraq provided a 10 year clearance work plan, (2018-2027), with IKMAA and DMA providing a detailed work plan for the period 2018-2019.

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

144. The Committee noted that Iraq has reported applying current land release standards to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.

## **V. Mine risk reduction**

145. Iraq reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes and trainings. Iraq reported a total 40,029 beneficiaries from MRE for the reporting period. The Committee noted that beneficiary information was disaggregated by sex and age. Iraq further reported 27 mine victims including, 19 men, 2 women and 6 children.

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY MAURITANIA**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

146. Initially, in 2001, Mauritania reported 34 areas totalling 87,725,000 square metres. On the basis of additional information obtained by Mauritania, the number of areas requiring clearance was adjusted to 56 and the amount of area adjusted to 90,017,026 square metres. Since the entry into force of the Convention for Mauritania in 2001, it has addressed all 56 areas having cleared 67,111,766 square metres and otherwise addressed 22,905,260 square metres.

147. In 2015, Mauritania submitted a request for an extension of its Article 5 deadline until 1 January 2021, indicating that the sole circumstance which impeded its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control was that it suspected that fortifications and minefields along the border with Western Sahara may in some instances be

located on Mauritanian territory. At the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017, Mauritania carried out surveys of the suspected areas and Mauritania reported that it can now confirm that the areas are located within Mauritanian territory.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

148. Mauritania reported that further to administrative checks and the conduct of technical surveys, the area of Sebkhat Fogra in the Ain Bintilli district was identified to contain anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The area in question is 1,000,000 square metres. The Committee noted that Mauritania had provided a high degree of clarity on the location of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

149. Mauritania has estimated that the area could be released in 2017 provided funding is available. Mauritania reported that the Mauritanian government has committed 385,000 US dollars for 2016-2017 to cover the cost of the National Mine Action Authority. The Committee noted that updates on efforts by Mauritania to raise the necessary funds to complete the implementation of Article 5 would be welcome.

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

150. In its 2015 extension request, Mauritania provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards, which are in conformity with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) but adapted to the context in Mauritania.

## **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

151. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested Mauritania to provide updates with respect to commitments made in its extension request, including information on dialogues held with relevant stakeholders and progress in the acquisition of information on the exact location of its northern border and in the development of plans to address identified areas. The Committee noted that Mauritania had acted in accordance with the 14MSP decisions.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

152. Mauritania reported that the area where the presence of anti-personnel is known has been marked and there are warnings displayed in Arabic and French. Mauritania reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. These include mine risk education programmes provided to schools and community liaison teams, including women and men, local NGOs regularly visiting towns and villages to provide mine risk education. Mauritania further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2016.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY MOZAMBIQUE**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

153. The Committee recalled that on 17 September 2015 Mozambique declared that it had completed the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or

control. The Committee further recalled that in declaring completion, Mozambique indicated that in the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Mozambique, in keeping with the decisions of the States Parties during the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, will:

- a) Immediately inform all States Parties of such a discovery, report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other means such as the meetings of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Meetings of the States Parties, Review Conferences and intersessional meetings;
- b) Ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5;
- c) Destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area as soon as possible, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate;
- d) If Mozambique believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference (whichever falls earlier), it will submit a request for an extended deadline, which should be as short as possible and no more than ten years, either to that Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference if the timing of the discovery permits or to the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference if the timing of the discovery does not permit, in accordance with its obligations under Article 5 and the process for submission of requests for extensions agreed to at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

154. Mozambique reported in its annual report that in April 2016 a suspected minefield was reported on the Mozambique and Tanzania border in Cabo Delgado province and that the *Instituto Nacional de Desminagem* (IND) together with APOPO carried out a combined non-technical survey of the area and concluded the existence of a 63,000 square metres suspected mined areas. Mozambique further reported the existence of an additional 4 areas measuring 3,226 square metres.

155. Mozambique reported that the IND requested Norwegian People's Aid to carry out clearance activities on the identified area starting in January 2017. Since then, 20,000 square metres have been cleared using a combined technical survey and clearance initiatives and 92 anti-personnel mines were destroyed.

156. The Committee noted that the information provided by Mozambique on the discovery of a previously unknown mined area was welcome but recalled that in such cases a State Party should, in accordance with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) on a *Rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed*, "immediately inform all States Parties of such a discovery, report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other means such as the meetings of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Meetings of the States Parties, Review Conferences and intersessional meetings". The Committee also noted that the origin of the newly discovered mined area in Cabo Delgado was clearly explained in the Art. 7 report, while the origin of the 4 areas in the region of Inhambane lacked clarity. In this regard the Committee would welcome additional information.

157. The Committee observed that Mozambique could provide increased clarity concerning progress made by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

158. The Committee noted that Mozambique had provided some clarity on its remaining challenge by provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region. The Committee noted that updated information on the remaining challenge would be welcome, including a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area. Mozambique reported that as of 1 April 2017 a total of 5 areas measuring 66,226 square metres remain to be addressed (1 task measuring 63,000 square metres in Cabo Delgado and 4 tasks measuring 3,226 in Inhumane).
159. The Committee noted that information provided by Mozambique in the Art. 7 report indicates that 5 tasks measuring 68,107 square meters remains to be addressed. The Committee further noted that the report indicates that a total of 23,226 square metres have been cleared and 1’881 square metres having been “suspended”. Considering the minimal discrepancies the Committee noted that additional information clarifying the remaining contamination would be welcome. The Committee noted that clarification on the meaning of the term “suspended” and on the status of these areas would be welcome. The Committee further observed that Mozambique could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.
160. The Committee noted that information on the results of the survey effort carried out by Mozambique with the support of NPA would be welcome

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

161. Mozambique reported that NPA will deploy a team of surveyors in 2017 to carry out assessment on the flooded minefields with the hope to either clear or cancel them. The Committee noted that clarity on these areas as well as a timeline for survey of these areas and results of the surveys would be welcome.
162. The Committee recalled that, in accordance with the decision of the 12MSP, if Mozambique believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference (whichever falls earlier), it should submit a request for an extended deadline, which should be as short as possible and no more than ten years, in accordance with its obligations under Article 5 and the process for submission of requests for extensions agreed to at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

163. The Committee noted that information on the standards and methodologies being applied to the clearance and survey efforts would be welcome.

## **V. Mine risk education**

164. The Committee noted that Mozambique did not report on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that information on this matter would be welcome.

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY OMAN**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

165. Oman reported that there are no areas known to contain anti-personnel mines in Oman. Oman further reported that despite the fact that no accident resulting from anti-personnel mines has been reported over the last 20 years, some areas are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as a result of rebellious activities in the 1960s and 1970s. Oman indicated that these suspected areas are difficult to access but that they are marked and fenced. Oman reported that the suspected areas are located in the Dhofar province and that in 2016, the area of Sarfit was cleared with some support. Oman further reported that it has formed a Committee that will prepare a plan for clearance.

166. The Committee noted that further information on the identification and precise location of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines would be welcome as well as on the outcome of clearance activities. The Committee further noted that additional information on efforts to locate and address these areas, including a work plan with annual projections, would also be welcome.

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SENEGAL**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

167. In its initial extension request submitted in 2008, Senegal indicated that its original challenge amounted to 149 suspected hazardous areas, including 85 areas totalling approximately 11,183,359 square metres, 47 areas including 73.45 linear kilometres of roads or paths and 17 areas of an unknown size. At the time, Senegal also indicated that 231 localities had not been visited, 171 of which were inaccessible and 60 localities had been abandoned.

168. In its extension request submitted in 2015, Senegal reported that since its initial extension request, of the 149 suspected hazardous areas, 131 areas had been released through non-technical and technical survey and clearance. Senegal had also reported that of the 171 inaccessible localities 54 were cancelled and of the 60 abandoned localities 33 localities were addressed. In addition, Senegal reported that further non-technical surveys were conducted in 298 localities resulting in 288 localities being cancelled.

169. Senegal reported that, in 2015, it cleared 2 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 29,156 square metres and that no mines were found. Senegal further reported that non-technical surveys were conducted in 72 localities which resulted in the cancellation of 67 localities and 5 localities were classified as confirmed hazardous areas.

170. Senegal reported that, in 2016, it cleared 9 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 58,414 square metres and that 1 anti-personnel mine was found. Senegal further reported that no additional non-technical surveys were conducted.

171. Senegal reported that 21 confirmed hazardous areas were released by either clearance or technical survey between 2015 and 31 March 2017.

172. The Committee noted that since the submission of its last extension request, Senegal has provided some clarity with regards to progress in implementation. The Committee noted that greater comparability with annual milestones of progress provided in extension requests would be welcome.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

173. Senegal reported that a total of 81 areas including 61 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 305,486 square metres and 20 suspected hazardous areas of an unknown size remain to be addressed. In addition, like in 2016, Senegal reported that 144 localities of the Bignona (127), Oussouye (4) and Ziguinchor (13) regions still need to be visited. Senegal's updated work plan indicates that 52 confirmed hazardous areas, including 41 CHAs totalling 529,027.276 square metres and 20 CHAs with an unknown size remain to be addressed. The Committee noted that clarity on the number of areas remaining to be addressed would be welcome.

174. The Committee noted that with further survey activities planned during the period of the extension request and a number of localities remaining inaccessible at present, Senegal's remaining challenge will need to be further clarified when additional information becomes available.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

175. In 2017, Senegal submitted an updated work plan which indicates that 17 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) totalling 169,770.825 square metres will be addressed in 2017, 24 CHAs totalling 343,856.451 square meters and 11 CHAs of an unknown size will be addressed in 2018. The plan also indicates that during 2018, the remaining 144 localities will be subject to non-technical surveys. The areas which will have been identified as CHAs further to the surveys will be addressed in 2019-2020.

176. The Committee noted that the plan does not include a detailed budget for the activities presented and relies in part on the mobilisation of external financial contributions. The Committee noted that regular information on efforts by Senegal to mobilise resources and outcomes of these efforts would be welcome. Senegal reported that in 2015-2016, Senegal received external support from the USA and that Senegal's own annual contribution amounted to 800,000,000 FCFA.

177. The Committee noted that Senegal's plan may be affected by the security situation and accessibility of areas which are due to be surveyed and that these factors may influence the implementation of the plan. The Committee further noted that information acquired by additional surveys will affect the implementation of the plan. The Committee noted that it would welcome regular updated information on the security situation as well as on the results of any surveys.

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

178. In its 2015 extension request, Senegal indicated that it developed National Mine Action Standards based on the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). These provide information on its land release methods and specify criteria used to cancel land through non-technical and technical survey. Senegal reported that it updated its National Mine Action Standards in 2013 with the support of experts.

## **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

179. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested that Senegal provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that Senegal submitted

information on outcomes of survey efforts and on the status of resource mobilization efforts and external financing.

180. The Committee noted that Senegal had acted in accordance with the 14MSP decision which requested Senegal to submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2017, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee further noted that the work plan contained an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request.

181. The Committee noted that precise updates on the development of the peace process dialogue could not be provided because the CNMAS is not a member of the negotiation group. The Committee noted that Senegal had provided an update on the security situation by indicating that recent developments in The Gambia had positively affected the north of Casamance, in particular in the Bignona department, where a massive return of population was recorded.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

182. In 2017, Senegal reported on the actions it took in 2015-2016 to effectively exclude the populations from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and two mine education programmes financed by the CNMAS and two by the US State Department. The Committee underlined the importance of Senegal continuing to provide updated information on actions taken to exclude populations from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. In addition, Senegal reported that in 2016, there was no new casualty resulting from anti-personnel mines.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SERBIA**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

183. Serbia reported that it conducted non-technical survey during 2016 and 2017 resulting in an increase of 700,000 square metres of suspect hazardous areas. This increased the total suspect hazardous area to be addressed by Serbia under Article 5 of the convention to 2,630,340 square metres. The Committee noted that no clearance activities were carried out in 2016.

184. The Committee noted that the information provided by Serbia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further noted that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

185. The Committee noted that Serbia had provided high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of all remaining areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to nine localities and an annexed table of each area. Serbia reported that, as of 1 April 2017, 13 suspected hazardous areas totalling 2,630,340 square metres remained to be addressed.

186. The Committee noted that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

187. Serbia provided a plan in its 2013 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected where, when, how, by whom and at what cost.

188. In 2017, Serbia reported that it had adjusted its plan and provided an update on milestones to be covered during the extension period including addressing a total of 5 areas measuring 995,920 square metres in 2017; 5 areas measuring 1,181,820 square metres in 2018, and; 3 areas measuring 452,600 square metres in 2019. Serbia reported that the dynamics of implementation might be affected by a lack in the provision of funds. Serbia further reported that if additional funds are provided, the work plan could be implemented in due time. The Committee observed that Serbia had a plan to achieve completion by its extended deadline.

189. Serbia reported that it has developed a technical survey project totalling 995,920 square metres and that this technical survey project will confirm or reject suspicion that the project area is contaminated with groups of mines and other UXO with confirmed areas being subject to clearance and those areas not confirmed to be mine contaminated to be cancelled.

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

190. In its 2013 extension request Serbia provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In its 2017 report Serbia provided a further description of the approach it is taking to land release, which appears to take into account the emphasis that the IMAS place on the need for evidence to define areas as either confirmed or suspected hazardous areas.

### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

191. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested Serbia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP had requested that Serbia keep the States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia's national financial contribution to implementation, efforts to mobilise external resources, and the results of these efforts. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP had requested Serbia to provide by 1 March 2016 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension.

192. The Committee observed that Serbia was acting upon the decisions of the 13MSP having submitted an updated work plan to the Committee in March 2016 and having kept the States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia's national financial contribution to implementation, efforts to mobilise external resources, and the results of these efforts.

### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

193. Serbia has reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine risk education programmes. Serbia reported that, in accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations people are evacuated and traffic is suspended, and that this is coordinated with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SOUTH SUDAN**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

194. In 2016, South Sudan reported having cancelled 17,166,302 square metres, reduced 71,399 square metres and cleared 10,538,076 square metres of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines for a total of 27,775,777 square metres addressed destroying in the process a total of 585 anti-personnel mines, 200 anti-tank mines, 20,190 items of UXO and 201,589 small arms munition.

195. The Committee noted that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with recommendations endorsed by the States Parties. The Committee observed that it was important for South Sudan to continue providing information on progress made disaggregated according to areas cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and released through clearance.

### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

196. The Committee noted that South Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e. “known” or “suspected”) and information on the geographic location of each area including by annexing maps. South Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2016, 236 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel totalling 80,904,786 square metres remained to be addressed. The Committee noted that clarifications with respect to a minor discrepancy between the reporting of 248 areas remaining to be addressed and 236 areas as recorded in Table 1 would be welcome.

197. The Committee noted that while the amount of area remaining to be addressed at the end of 2015 totalled 98,403,022 square metres and the amount of area addressed in 2016 totalled 27,775,777 square metres clarity concerning the size of the remaining challenge reported by South Sudan would be welcome.

198. The Committee noted that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

199. South Sudan reported that the conflict has made access to some areas difficult for mine action teams to carry out survey and clearance in suspected hazardous areas. South Sudan reported that if the security situation improves, there is a need to carry out survey in the conflict affected areas to ascertain what actual exists in those areas. The Committee noted that updates on survey efforts and the results of these efforts would be welcome.

200. South Sudan reports that, in spite of this, through non-technical and technical survey efforts, land has been either cancelled or prioritized for clearance.

#### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

201. In 2016, the Committee noted that South Sudan reported that all land release endeavours are implemented in line with National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) which are based on the most up-to-date International Mine Action Standards. South Sudan further indicated that once survey is completed it is either cancelled through non-technical survey or prioritized for technical survey and clearance.

#### **V. Mine risk reduction**

202. The Committee noted that South Sudan had reported in detail on the actions it had taken to effectively educate civilians with age appropriate and gender sensitive mine risk education (MRE) programmes specifically targeting internally displaced persons, returnees and primary school children. MRE is included in national primary school curriculum. In 2016, South Sudan reported that its MRE programmes reached a total of 385,283 beneficiaries.

203. South Sudan reported that there were 45 new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2016 including 32 injured and 13 killed. The Committee noted that information on victims disaggregated by gender and age would be welcome.

### **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SUDAN**

#### **I. Progress in implementation**

204. Sudan reported that, in 2016, it addressed a total 13 areas measuring 4,885,725 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines including 1,044,104 square meters addressed through clearance, 2,337,945 square meters reduced and 1,503,676 square meters cancelled destroying in the process 105 anti-personnel mines, 24 antitank mines and 8,851 items of unexploded ordnance.

205. The Committee noted that the information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with information previously provided by Sudan. The Committee noted that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with recommendations endorsed by the States Parties. The Committee observed that it was important for Sudan to continue providing information on progress made disaggregated according to areas cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and released through clearance.

#### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

206. The Committee observed that Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e. "known" or "suspected"), and information on the geographic location of each area. Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2016, 55 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,604,237 square metres and 44 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 16,533,048 square metres remained to be addressed.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

207. The Committee recalled that Sudan provided a detailed plan in its 2013 extension request covering the period 2013-2015 and projections of the number of areas and amount of area to be released each year from 2013 to 2019, leading towards completion by Sudan's 1 April 2019 deadline. Sudan, in its updated work plan, provided a revised number of areas per state that it intends to address during the period 2016 to 2019 including a total of 43 areas measuring 7,324,853 square metres in 2016; 35 areas measuring 6,385,382 square metres in 2017; 24 areas measuring 5,085,217 square metres in 2018; and 10 areas measuring 2,118,840 square metres in 2019 (to 1 April 2019).
208. Sudan reported that the plan under the extension request was based on the assumptions that, there will be an improvement in the security situation in all the regions contaminated by mines and ERW and required funds will need to be secured to implement the programme activities. Sudan reported that the other factors that may hamper the implementation includes, conflicts, frequent movement of population finding additional hazards, high metallic contents in the mine fields and the rainy season.
209. Sudan reported that during 2016, the eastern states were accessible for the demining operations, while access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was limited for clearance and survey operations due to insecurity.
210. Sudan provided an update on milestones expected towards completion with 63 areas to be addressed in 2017; 27 areas to be addressed in 2018, and; 10 areas to be addressed in 2019.

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

211. In its 2013 extension request Sudan provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. In its 2015 report Sudan provided additional details on its land release process. The Committee observed that, as Sudan reported that it was reviewing its national technical standards, Sudan may, in the near future, be able to provide additional information on the application of the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, pursuant to Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan.

### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

212. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Sudan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request.
213. The Committee noted that Sudan had reported in detail on each of these matters. The Committee further observed that, with respect to information provided on survey efforts and on the security situation, Sudan reported that Security wise eastern states were accessible for the demining operations, while access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was limited for clearance and survey operations due to insecurity situations. The Committee also noted that, with respect to information on financing, Sudan reported that in 2016 the Sudan Mine Action Programme received 5,985,582 USD from different donors and that in addition the Government of Sudan supported the programme by providing salaries for staff of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), the operational costs of the NMAC by allocating 2 million USD. Sudan further reported that there was a 4.4 million USD gap in funding for 2016.

214. Sudan further reported that the database clean-up effort was ongoing and could not be finalized in 2016. The Committee observed that given the importance of ensuring that the national program counts on clear and up-to-date information on the status of operations, updated information on progress in this area would be welcome.

215. Sudan further reported on its efforts to facilitate the operations of international demining organisations and to expand indigenous demining capacity, and the result of these efforts.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

216. Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through the marking of hazardous areas. Sudan reported that in 2016 a number of mine risk education (MRE) services had been provided to communities at risk. The total number of individuals who received MRE messages in 2016 included 437,932 persons in 7 states (137,888 boys; 116,080 girls; 87,704 men; 96,260 women).

217. Sudan further reported that, from March 2013 to February 2016, 122 mine/ERW victims were recorded. The Committee noted that this data was disaggregated by age and gender.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TAJIKISTAN**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

218. Tajikistan reported that, in 2016, it addressed a total 12 areas measuring 1,451,067 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines with 496,796 square meters having been cleared, 294,835 square meters having been reduced and 659,436 square meters having been cancelled destroying in the process 1,248 anti-personnel mines and 206 items of unexploded ordnance.

219. The Committee further concluded that the information provided by Tajikistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability. The Committee concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

220. The Committee concluded that Tajikistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to three regions of the country in fifteen districts. This list included the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Tajikistan reported that, as of the end of 2016, 147 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines measuring 7,764,256 square meters and 77 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines measuring 1,970,000 square metres remain to be addressed.

221. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, Tajikistan's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

222. Tajikistan provided a detailed plan in its 2009 extension request leading towards completion with this clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. In 2014, Tajikistan reported that the plan presented in its request is not reflecting the current situation due to alteration in the planned activities, management issues, land release capacity and remaining contamination.

223. The Committee noted that Tajikistan provided an updated projection of outputs for clearance and survey in each of the three administrative regions contaminated with anti-personnel mines from 2017 and 2019 as follows: in 2017 a total of 22 areas and 1,520,100 square meters will be addressed, in 2018 a total of 42 area and 1,655,235 square meters will be addressed, in 2019 a total of 29 areas and 1,712,085 square meters will be addressed. The Committee observed that of the 224 mined areas measuring 9,734,256 square meters Tajikistan intends to address 93 mined areas and 4,887,420 square meters, approximately half of the remaining challenge. The Committee also observed that Tajikistan indicated that it will need to increase its humanitarian demining capacity in order to meet its 1 April 2020 deadline. The Committee further observed that it would welcome updates from Tajikistan on the implementation of the plan and efforts to increase capacity.

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

224. In its 2009 extension request, Tajikistan provided a detailed description of its land release methods noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) which take their lead from the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In 2014, Tajikistan reported that based on experiences gained during the last years, best international practices, new land release methodologies and new operational conditions, three new chapters were developed for the Tajikistan National Mine Action Standards (TNMAS) and that the 22 existing chapters of the TNMAS were updated and revised by the NMAS Review Board in 2014.

### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

225. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested that Tajikistan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee Concluded that Tajikistan had acted upon its commitment to provide clarity on the situation on the Tajik-Uzbek border.

226. The Committee further recalled that the 9MSP had noted the benefit Tajikistan could draw from increasing its frequency of contact with donors and by clearly communicating the socio-economic development benefits that would flow from completing Article 5 implementation and concluded that more information on this effort would be welcomed.

227. Tajikistan reported that in 2016 Tajikistan enhanced its information management capacity by providing refresher training and modernizing its information management system to IMSMA 6.0. In addition to this, Tajikistan indicated that it has developed and approved a national strategic plan 2017-2020.

### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

228. Tajikistan reported the efforts it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. This has included providing mine risk

education (MRE) to people living in the mine and other ERW impacted communities with the aim of changing behaviour associated with high risk. Tajikistan indicated that it places warning signs in the language of the local population and has mainstreamed mine risk education in the curriculum of educational institutions in vulnerable regions of the country to reduce possible risk. Tajikistan also indicated that in high risk areas it has carried out a series of activities on mine awareness and community outreach. Tajikistan also indicated that despite these efforts there were still 6 accidents in 2016 including 2 boys and 4 men with one of these victims being killed.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THAILAND**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

229. Thailand reported that in 2016 it addressed 43 suspect hazardous areas located in 11 districts of 7 Provinces, releasing 28,194,432 square metres of land. This comprised 27,728,657 square metres cancelled, 71,537 square metres reduced and 394,238 square metres cleared. As a result of this work Thailand declared Chiang Rai Province mine free.

230. The Committee noted that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with information previously provided by Thailand. The Committee noted that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with recommendations endorsed by the States Parties. The Committee noted that it was important for Thailand to continue providing information on progress made disaggregated according to areas cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and released through clearance.

### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

231. The Committee noted that Thailand had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of each area and information on the geographic location of each area. Thailand reported that, as of 31 December 2015, 314 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 450,736,524 square metres remained to be addressed, with mined areas located in 33 districts in 14 of Thailand's provinces. Thailand further reported that all confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) have been re-categorised as suspected hazardous areas (SHA) as a result of the ongoing resurvey process to determine contaminated areas as precisely as possible.

232. The Committee noted that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee noted that updates on the results of survey efforts would be welcome.

233. The Committee observed that Thailand had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of each area and information on the geographic location of each area. Thailand reported that during 2016 an additional 63,080 square metres of land was identified as mined area, bringing its remaining challenge to 305 suspect hazardous areas located in 30 districts, of 13 provinces, an area of 422,605,172 square metres. Thailand further classified 86 areas, 63,796,040 square metres of its remaining challenge into, 'area that can be operated/surveyed'. While 244 areas, representing 358,809,132 square metres have been classified as, 'inaccessible due to pending demarcation process'.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

234. The Committee noted that Thailand submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that Thailand had provided a two year work plan, (2017-2018) indicating what geographical and quantified results were expected when, how, and by whom. Thailand reported that it planned to address all suspect hazardous areas in accessible areas by the end of 2018, targeting 34,744.589 square metres in 2017 and 29,051,451 square metres in 2018.
235. Thailand reported 358,809,132 square metres as areas to be demarcated which are located along the Thai border, many of which are pending survey, demarcation process, or concerned with border related security issues. Thailand reported that while it is committed to expediting boundary demarcation with its neighbouring countries, such progress rests upon political factors of neighbouring countries which always have some uncertainties. In spite of this, Thailand reported that during the extension period, Thailand will operate along border areas in areas to be demarcated which cover 12 provinces. Thailand reported that, the Royal Thai Government has allocated sufficient resources and funding for mine action but always welcomes additional external resources.
236. The Committee recalled the Committee's conclusions in 2016 which recorded that, "TMAC has already engaged in a discussion with their Cambodian counterpart on the possibility of joint operations. The Committee noted that updated information on the outcomes of border negotiations with neighbouring Governments and Mine Action Authorities to ensure that mined areas can be addressed as soon as possible would be welcome".

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

237. In 2015 Thailand began to apply a new land release method called "Evidence-Based Survey" (EBS) in which only the area with strong evidence of mine contamination will be categorised as confirmed hazardous area. The EBS method will allow identifying a more realistic estimation of mine-contaminated land and thus enable the clearance plan to be more time-bound in this regard. Thailand reported that in 2016 the Thailand Mine Action Centre launched a pioneering project to involve more local stakeholders in mine clearance and in the land release process in their own provinces.
238. Thailand reported that in 2016 it had completed a pilot project with the support of Norwegian People's Aid using an Evidence-Based Survey (EBS). Thailand further reported that, if the pilot project results are accurate and applied nationwide (only 13.5% land are actually contaminated meaning that 86.5% could be cancelled), for the years remaining from the first extension, 2017 -2018. The Committee noted that further information from Thailand on the application of EBS to the remaining SHA in a manner consistent with the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, would be welcome

### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

239. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Thailand to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that Thailand has been acting on its commitments to keep the States Parties apprised of progress.

240. The Committee recalled the commitments made by Thailand in its 2008 extension request related to enhancing and strengthening close cooperation at the regional level and building national capacity. In this regard, the Committee noted that information pursuant to these commitments would be welcome, particularly as they relate to consultation on areas pending demarcation, and engagement with Mine Action Centres and other relevant bodies from neighbouring countries on demarcation leading to mine action.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

241. Thailand reported in detail on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the use of inter-disciplinary approaches carried out in consultation with communities.

242. Thailand indicated that in 2016 there were 9 victims of mines including 1 Women and 8 men. This represented an increase from 5 reported in the previous year. The Committee noted that the information on casualties provided by Thailand was disaggregated by gender and age.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TURKEY**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

243. Turkey reported that in 2016 a total of 122,764 square meters were cleared on the border with Iran. Turkey further reported that while demining operations continued in the eastern borders, no mined area has been formally released to date and that information on area reduced and cancelled will be reported in the following years. Turkey reported that a total of 837 anti-personnel mines were destroyed during operations on the Syrian border and an additional 9,008 mines destroyed through the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project in Igdir Province in 2016. The Committee welcomes that Turkey indicated that it would provide information on areas reduced or cancelled in the 2017 report.

244. The Committee noted that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous information provided by Turkey. The Committee further concluded that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability. The Committee concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

245. The Committee noted that Turkey had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a table summarising the total, per border area, of the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, the estimated size of area, where known, and the number of emplaced anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, where known. The Committee noted that Turkey reported that a comprehensive desk assessment of minefield records of the eastern and Syrian border was conducted in 2016. Turkey reported that, as of the end of 2016, 3,080 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 172,565,239 square metres and 701 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with an unknown amount of area, remained to be addressed.

246. The Committee noted that updated information from the Turkey on the remaining challenge would be welcome, including a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-

personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area.

247. The Committee noted that Turkey could significantly increase clarity, by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey”. The Committee noted that, with survey activities ongoing, Turkey’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

248. Turkey reported that since the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) in 2015, mine clearance operations and mine action activities have intensified in Turkey. Turkey reported on a number of national capacity development measures being implemented including improvements in information management.

249. Turkey reported that the first ever National Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2017-2019 has been drafted which is expected to be approved and published in the Official Gazette in 2017 which covers national capacity development, the clearance of mined areas and areas containing unexploded ordnance within the borders of the Republic of Turkey, provisions for mine risk education, assistance to mine victim, and the Syrian Border Physical Security System. The Committee noted that information on the milestones for progress in mine clearance leading towards Turkey’s 1 March 2022 deadline for implementation of Article 5 would be welcome.

250. Turkey reported that non-technical survey operations are planned for 2017. The Committee noted that additional information on the plan for non-technical survey and the outcomes of these activities would be welcome.

### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

251. Turkey reported that National Mine Action Standards including land release policy have been drafted and are expected to be endorsed in 2017. The Committee noted that information on the standards and methodologies to be employed would be welcome.

### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

252. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Turkey provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Turkey complied with the 13MSP decision requesting Turkey to submit, to the States Parties, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension by March 2015. In submitting this plan, Turkey indicated that this work plan will be finalized by the NMAC, that there is an ongoing detailed exploration of mined areas in border regions, and that, as a result, further revisions to the plan are possible. The Committee noted that, as further revisions to the plan are possible, ongoing updates by Turkey on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcome.

253. Turkey reported that in January 2015 Law No: 6586 on “Establishment on a National Mine Action Centre and Amendment of Some other Laws” entered into force on 3 February 2015.

Turkey further reported that the law entitles the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC), established under the Ministry of National Defence, to define policies towards mine and/or unexploded ammunition clearance activities within the territory of the Republic of Turkey, to plan and steer these activities, to monitor the execution of such activities in accordance with the established rules, to carry out the necessary coordination and cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions.

254. The Committee noted that Turkey acted in accordance with the 13MSP decision requesting Turkey to submit an update on developments in the establishment of the NMAA and the NMAC; this includes enactment of National legislation, Law No: 671 of 15th August 2016 and subsequent enactment of the Law No: 6757 of 9 November 2016, that places the National Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) under the Directorate of General Plans and Principles of the Ministry of National Defence.

255. The Committee further noted that Turkey was complying with the decision of the 13MSP by keeping the states parties informed of progress in the clearance of mined areas in areas other than borders.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

256. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with these actions including fencing and marking as well as mine risk education programmes. Turkey further reported that there were 57 new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2016 including 8 civilian wounded (4 children and 4 adults) and a total of 49 military personnel (35 wounded and 14 killed). The Committee observed that the information on casualties provided by Turkey was not disaggregated by both gender and age and would welcome if Turkey could provide information in this manner.

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY UKRAINE**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

257. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties the Ukraine indicated that in the east of the country there are areas that are known or presumed to be mined by anti-personnel mines but that these areas are currently not under its effective control.

258. Ukraine reported that the areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines are in the Donetsk region, Volnovasky district. Ukraine further reported that accurate information is missing on the type of anti-personnel mines, the quantity and the date of emplacement. Ukraine indicated that around 7,000 square kilometres were mined or suspected to be contaminated with anti-personnel mines and improvised explosive devices.

259. Ukraine indicated that, despite ongoing military operations in the east of Ukraine, clearance is carried out by the engineers demining units of the armed forces of Ukraine. Ukraine further reported that in 2016 a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and Halo Trust, DDG and the FSD for the conduct of non-technical surveys. Ukraine reported that efforts are currently directed towards clearing infrastructure for the population, i.e., power lines, gas and water pipes, as well as roads and railway tracks in the Donetsk and Lugansk region.

260. As of November 2016, two demining teams had cleared about 200 square kilometres and neutralised more than 210,000 mines and unexploded ordnance.

261. The Committee recalled the decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties in which the States Parties expressed serious concern that Ukraine is now in a situation of non-compliance with Article 5 and called on Ukraine to submit as soon as possible a request for extension in accordance with the process established by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties and observed that to date Ukraine has not submitted a request for extension.

262. The Committee regrets that, despite its engagement with Ukraine, no extension request has yet been submitted by Ukraine. The Committee reiterates its offer to support Ukraine – in any way it wishes and consistent with the Committee’s mandate and the decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY UNITED KINGDOM**

### **I. Progress in implementation**

263. The United Kingdom reported that the fourth phase of the demining operation/land release operations concluded. The United Kingdom further reported that the fourth phase of demining operations ran from January 2015 to March 2016 and cleared a total of 25 suspected hazardous areas: 24, 26, 27, 35, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60, 86, 22, 33, 49, 50A, 50B, 51, 52, 53, 56, 59, 63A, 63B, 66, 83 and 110 as well as the non-minefield area. The United Kingdom reported that the total number of mined areas addressed across the four phases totals 35.

264. The Committee noted that the information provided by the United Kingdom permitted comparability with the information previously provided. The Committee noted that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if the United Kingdom used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared). The Committee observed that the United Kingdom could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

265. The United Kingdom reported that once the fourth phase of completion is finished, no more than 83 suspected hazardous areas will remain. The Committee would welcome updated information from the United Kingdom on the remaining challenge including an updated list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area. The Committee further observed that the United Kingdom could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

266. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom has indicated that Phase 5 began in October 2016 and aims to clear 46 minefields and conduct technical survey in a further 27 minefields in

the first two years, demonstrating progress towards meeting the UK's obligations under the Convention.

267. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom has indicated that two contractors- Dynasafe Bactec and Fenix Insight- have been engaged for the roles of Land Release Contractor and Demining Project Office respectively. The Committee noted that updated information on United Kingdom's plan to complete implementation of Article 5 by its deadline of 1 March 2019 would be welcomed, specifically indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost.

#### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

268. The United Kingdom reported that it applies the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in its demining operations, as well as local environmental and planning regulations. The United Kingdom reported that it is applying a combination of non-technical survey, technical survey, manual and mechanical clearance and battle area clearance, as well as applicable environmental standards.

#### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

269. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested the United Kingdom to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that the Convention as a whole would benefit if the United Kingdom, in the context of reporting on the progress on destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with article 5, provided an accounting of annual milestones of progress to be achieved during the remaining period of its extension request.

#### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

270. The United Kingdom reported that there are effective fences and minefield marker warnings in place around all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, that school children are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings as appropriate.

### **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY YEMEN**

#### **I. Progress in implementation**

271. Yemen reported that from April 2016 to March 2017 it addressed a total of 130 suspected hazardous areas releasing a total of 4'703'279 square meters by survey and clearance resulting in the destruction of 14,397 anti-personnel mines and 11,457 anti-tank mines. Yemen reported that since 1999 a total of 1,624 suspected hazardous areas totalling 1,217,345,061 square meters have been addressed.

272. The Committee further noted that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Yemen used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity

(i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared). The Committee observed that Yemen could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

273. The Committee noted that Yemen had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenges by providing a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in 52 districts located in 18 provinces, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, and the estimated size of the area concerned. Yemen reported that, as of the end of 2016, 569 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 323,480,306 square meters remained to be addressed.

274. The Committee noted that Yemen could significantly increase clarity, by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey”. The Committee noted that, with survey activities ongoing, Yemen’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

275. Yemen reported that the cooperation between the Yemen Mine Action Programme and UNDP is strengthened to be in direct management of UNDP and that UNDP is currently working with YEMAC to build the capacity of YEMAC in the field of management and in technical issues. Yemen further reported that the Yemen Mine Action Programme through the support of UNDP is going to work with NGOs in some mine action activities as the new challenges which Yemen faces required the cooperation between YEMAC/UNDP and other NGOs.

276. Yemen reported that the Government of Yemen with support of the UNDP established an emergency plan for clearing mines and ERW with this plan having started in April 2015. Yemen reported that it has changed the structure of the Yemen Mine Action Programme according to the emergency plan approved by the government of UNPD.

277. Yemen reported that it plans to re-survey 18 governorates from 2017-2020 intending to release a total of 20 areas 73 areas totalling 43,646,466 square meters in 2017, 112 areas totalling 51,581,700 square metres in 2018, 157 areas totalling 65,358,990 square metres in 2019 and 227 areas measuring 162,893,150 square metres in 2020. Yemen reported that additional contamination could be found.

278. The Committee noted that more information would be welcome to understand how this ambitious plan will be implemented.

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

279. Yemen reported in 2016 that the methods used to identify areas containing anti-personnel mines and the reasons for suspecting the presence of anti-personnel mines in other areas are to release land through technical survey by applying manual clearance and mine detection dogs, and work according to international and Yemeni standards. Yemen further reported that the

technical survey is the first essential step to identify and verify the location of minefields, to draw contamination maps and conduct clearance in small minefields, in addition to the survey teams making large area reduction and area cancellation.

280. The Committee noted that Yemen may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee noted that information on enhancements that Yemen has undertaken to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

#### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

281. The Committee recalled that in granting the extension request the Third Review Conference had requested Yemen to provide information on efforts to diversify funding covering the costs of implementing Yemen's national plans for survey and mine clearance, efforts to update, develop and apply national mine action standards that are in line with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards, and changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation. The Committee noted that continued updates on Yemen's progress regarding these matters would be welcome.

282. The Committee noted that Yemen was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request of keeping the States Parties apprised of progress made and by having submitted an updated work plan in 2015.

#### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

283. Yemen reported that mine risk education activities during the period of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 were ongoing in 9 governorates (Ibb, Mareb, Hajjah, Amran, Abyan, Al Hodaydah, Lahij, Aden and Sana'a) in cooperation with UNICEF. Yemen reported that field visits were conducted to 674 villages and locations targeting a total of 220,332 people of which 104,811 were female and 115,521 were male.

### **OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ZIMBABWE**

#### **I. Progress in implementation**

284. Zimbabwe reported that in 2016 it addressed 4,850,371 square metres known to contain anti-personnel mines, including reduction of 3,179,056 square metres and 1,671,315 square metres cleared. During the reporting period Zimbabwe destroyed 23,379 anti-personnel mines, 4 anti-tank mines and two items of UXO. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had significantly reduced its contamination through resurvey of Rusitu to Muzite minefield over the reporting period.

285. The Committee observed that the information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation. The Committee noted the importance of Zimbabwe continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

286. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by provided a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area. Zimbabwe reported that, as of the end of 2016, there remained five distinct minefield (divided into 212 sectors/tasks) totalling 66’ 131’289 square metres.

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey**

287. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that the request contained an updated work plan with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe’s plan includes information concerning the milestones to be met over the course of its extension period, including addressing a total of 7,035,300 square metres in 2017; 7,367,700 square metres in 2018; 8,150,098 square metres in 2019; 9,008,098 square metres in 2020; 8,720,000 square metres in 2021; and 8,666,000 square metres in 2022; 8,790,000 square metres in 2023; 8,600,050 square metres in 2024, and; 3,072,418 square metres in 2025.

## **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

288. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had not provided a detailed description of its land release methods. The Committee noted that additional information on the methodologies used by Zimbabwe to address the remaining mined are would be welcome.

289. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had increased its cooperation with international organisations. The Committee noted that the increased cooperation with international organisations could positively affect the rate of addressing the remaining mined areas in Zimbabwe and would welcome information on the positive effects of this.

## **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

290. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2012 extension request granted at the Third Review Conference. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had been acting on its commitments to keep the States Parties informed on progress, including; efforts made to develop and implement a national strategic plan, plans of HALO trust and Norwegian People’s Aid to increase capacity, a clear outline of resources obtained relative to needs expressed, and those additional efforts made by Zimbabwe to use a full range of practical methods to release areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines, in accordance with United Nations Mine Action Standards.

291. The Committee recalled that in the decision of the Third Review Conference on Zimbabwe’s request, States Parties requested Zimbabwe to provide an update on the relocation of the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre out of military cantonments. The Committee noted that additional information on the progress of this recommendation would be welcome.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

292. Zimbabwe reported that all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have been marked and warning signs in both respective area languages and English were displayed with replacement of warning signs and their maintenance done on regular basis. Zimbabwe reported that the danger of people entering into minefields doing risk taking activities is reduced from massive mine risk-reduction education done by Zimbabwe Army Engineers and all demining organisations in their areas of responsibility. Efforts are being made to tailor messages according to community circumstances (e.g., according to the main economic, cultural and recreational activities carried in any particular locality).
293. Zimbabwe reported that mine risk education is working to a great extent in reducing the number of landmine victims as seen from comparing reported previous years victims' data. Zimbabwe reported that in 2016, 3 victim were identified including 2 boys and 1 man. The Committee noted that the information on casualties provided by Zimbabwe was disaggregated by gender and age.