

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)**

**Intersessional Meetings
7-8 June 2018**

PART 1: Introduction

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee met for the first time on 16 January 2018 to discuss its work plan for the year and has met regularly since. On 9 February 2018 the Committee wrote letters to the following States Parties:
 - a. to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan, Ukraine and the United Kingdom to recall to them the process for requesting an extension established by the States Parties;
 - b. to 31 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; to stress the importance of respecting this deadline, given the short timeframe between the deadline and the intersessional meetings of 7-8 June; to inform them on how it would proceed in preparing preliminary observations for the intersessional meetings; and to encourage them to use the Guide to Reporting;
 - c. to Angola, Eritrea, Iraq, Niger and Peru which were due to submit updated work plans and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by Meetings of the States Parties on their requests for extension.
2. During the United Nations National Mine Action Directors Meeting (13 – 16 February 2018), the Committee held bilateral meetings with representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Sudan and Ukraine, which had indicated that they would need to submit a request for extension in 2018, in order to discuss progress in the development and submission of their requests. In addition, the Committee also met with Cambodia, Iraq, Mauritania, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing their mine clearance obligations.
3. On 7 March 2018, the Committee held bilateral meetings with Serbia and Ukraine in order to discuss progress in the development and submission of their extension requests.
4. After having received extension requests by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan and the United Kingdom the Committee reached out to expert organisations on 24 April 2018 to request input on those requests, in accordance with the process established by the States Parties.
5. On 29 April 2018, the Committee sent a letter to States Parties to inform them of the receipt of requests for extension submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan, and the United Kingdom and to point out that Ukraine's extension request had still not been received. With the extension request process ongoing, the engagement with these States Parties continues to date.

6. On 30 April 2018, the Committee met with Mozambique, a State Party which declared completion in 2015 and in doing so had indicated that there remained areas that were for years had been underwater and therefore inaccessible as well as discovered a previously unknown mined area which it addressed in 2017, in order to request an update on the situation with the inaccessible area as well as additional clarity on the work carried out in 2017 to address the discovered previously unknown mined areas.
7. Also on 30 April 2018, the Committee met with Niger to discuss Niger's outstanding work plan and Article 7 report as well as other matter regarding progress in implementing its Article 5 commitments.
8. In the lead up to the intersessional meetings the Committee worked on the development of preliminary observations based on information submitted by the States Parties. The Committee further worked on arranging bi-lateral meetings to take place during the period of 6 June – 8 June with States Parties which submitted or will in the near future submit requests as well as with those with outstanding work plans and commitments.
9. As per the decision of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) on Ukraine, the Committee continued to make itself available for engagement with Ukraine in order to support its efforts to submit as soon as possible a request for extension in accordance with the process established by the States Parties. In light of this dialogue a meeting will take place in Kiev with authorities of Ukraine concerning this matter.

II. Methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations

10. 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 2018 in the context of Article 7 reporting, information contained in requests for extended deadlines that were submitted in 2018, and any additional information provided in writing by States Parties on Article 5 implementation.
11. 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. 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. Improvements in the measurability of Article 5 implementation over time, with improvements in the quality of information permitting greater understanding and comparability.
 - c. Efficient and expedient implementation with commitments to apply the most relevant land release standards and methodologies.
12. 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
13. 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.

II. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation

14. At the close of the 16MSP, 31 States Parties had reported having an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention.
15. Of the 31 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, until 15 May 2018, the following had provided information on progress in implementation:
- a. 22 States Parties submitted Article 7 transparency reports containing updated information on implementation of Article 5: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.
 - b. Of the five States Parties that were due to submit updated information/work plans pursuant to decisions taken on their requests for extended deadlines – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Iraq, Niger, Peru - only two States Parties - Iraq and Peru – submitted updated information/work plans.
 - c. On 7 December 2017, Ethiopia acted upon the decisions of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties on its request for extension by submitting an updated work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention.

- d. Of the seven States Parties that indicated they would need to submit a request for extension for consideration of the 17MSP – six submitted requests for extension – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan, and the United Kingdom.
 - e. In spite of the Committee's best efforts and sustained dialogue since the 16MSP, as of 15 May 2018, Ukraine has still not submitted a request for extension in accordance with the decision of the 16MSP and the extension request process established by the 7MSP.
16. Of the 31 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, as of 15 May 2018, 9 did not submit Article 7 reports to update information on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas: Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Oman, Somalia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Yemen.

III. Observations of a general nature

17. The Committee welcomes the information submitted by States Parties as well as the engagement with the Committee during bilateral meetings which has allowed for a cooperative dialogue to take place between the Committee and the States Parties.
18. The Committee observes that there has been a slight drop in the number of reports submitted to date (25 reports submitted by this time in 2017). The Committee recalls that the submission of an Article 7 report on an annual basis is an obligation under the Convention. The Committee observes that, in spite of this drop, a positive trend was observed in the quality of some of the reports submitted.
19. The Committee further observes that of the 9 States Parties that have not reported in 2018, Eritrea, Niger and Somalia stand out for repeatedly failing to report for the last 4 to 6 years. The Committee notes that a specific engagement leading to the 17MSP will be required with these States Parties. The Committee continues to be concerned about States Parties with Article 5 obligations that have not submitted their Article 7 transparency reports and emphasises the importance of the submission of outstanding reports in order for the Committee to develop its conclusions to be presented to the 17MSP.
20. The Committee observes that, of the 31 States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, few have submitted reports by the deadline of 30 April. The Committee emphasizes the importance of timely submission to ensure early engagement with the Committee and support the timely preparation of the States Parties for the intersessional meetings. The Committee further observes that, despite efforts to encourage its use, not all States Parties with Article 5 obligations have employed the guidance contained in 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 is grateful to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Mauritania, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey and Zimbabwe for 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 observes that some States Parties have not yet adopted the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan. The

Committee also observes that amendments made by States Parties to their national standards are not always shared in accordance with Action #9. The Committee notes that direct engagement with concerned States Parties is needed to ensure the implementation of the IMAS and remedy the lack of transparency.

23. The Committee observes 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 IMAS (i.e. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”; disaggregating data by activity that is non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance; reporting progress according to the result of each activity that is land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared). The Committee notes that direct engagement with concerned States Parties is needed to ensure the proper use of this terminology.
24. The Committee observes 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, with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”) and information on the geographic location of each area in conformity with the Guide to Reporting. The Committee noted that direct engagement with concerned States Parties is needed to increase clarity.
25. The Committee observes 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 noted that it is essential for States Parties to continue to clearly report on the challenges they face in implementing their Article 5 commitments. The Committee further notes that States Parties facing challenges in implementation could consider taking part in the Convention’s *individualized approach* led by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.
26. The Committee observes that in a number of cases progress in addressing mined areas varies substantively from one year to the next and in some cases the remaining challenge also is subject to substantial variations. The Committee encourages States Parties to provide details on the reasons for these variations in their reports.
27. The Committee observes that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, a number of States Parties face challenges associated with other explosive remnants of war and UXOs. In these States Parties, efforts to implement Article 5 are only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards. The Committee observes 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.
28. The Committee recalls that, States Parties with areas confirmed or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature are required to report these areas under Article 7 of the Convention and address these areas as part of their Convention obligations.
29. In this regard the Committee recalls that the decision of the 12MSP concerning situations in which a State Party discovers mined areas, including newly mined areas, after its original or extended deadline to implement Article 5 has expired is pertinent and must be applied by States Parties finding themselves in situations foreseen by that decision.

30. Acknowledging the valuable contribution of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Implementation Support Unit, the Committee notes that States Parties requiring assistance are best served by directly engaging with the ISU in order to benefit from its advice and support in matters concerning the implementation of Article 5.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY AFGHANISTAN

I. Progress in implementation

1. Afghanistan reported that it released 355 mined areas in 2017, addressing 30,526,213 square metres, 1,729,047 square metres cancelled, 948,213 square metres reduced and 27,848,953 square metres cleared, destroying 14,624 anti-personnel mines, 286 anti-tank mines, 42,820 items of unexploded ordnance and 19 cluster munitions. The Committee observed that the information provided by Afghanistan was disaggregated according to area cancelled, reduced and cleared.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided allowed for comparability with that provided in Afghanistan's 2012 extension request. The Committee noted that between April 2013 and 31 December 2017, the number of confirmed (CHA) and suspected hazardous areas (SHA) had been reduced from 3,439 to 2,130 and the total area from 266.4 square kilometres to 224.6 square kilometres.
3. The Committee welcomed Afghanistan employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) in reporting on progress in implementation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary list of the remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated extent of the contamination in each region of the country. Afghanistan reported a total of 2,130 mined areas totalling 224,668,487 square metres remaining to be addressed, including 1,833 CHAs totalling 127,064,652 square metres and 297 SHAs measuring 97,603,835 square metres.
5. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2017 that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and other explosive remnants of war also pose extreme risks to the civilian population and to the implementation of development activities. In this regard, the Committee observed 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.
6. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Afghanistan could be further clarified by presenting more precise information, including the use of the Guide to Reporting.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

7. 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 noted that progress in 2017 did not reach projection outputs for clearance and survey. The Committee also observed that Afghanistan had reported an additional 92.7 square kilometres of mined areas identified through non-technical survey.
8. The Committee 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 2018 to 2022, with an overall goal for Afghanistan to address 1,866 confirmed and suspect hazardous areas measuring 200,533,936 square metres, as follows: 63,944,350 square metres to be addressed in 2018, 36,618,050 square metres to be addressed in 2019, 45,294,509 square metres to be addressed in 2020, 30,090,847 square metres to be addressed in 2021, and 24,586,180 square metres to be addressed in 2022.
9. The Committee noted that, while Afghanistan anticipates releasing a considerable amount of area and number of areas annually leading to its deadline in 2022, the number of areas, (1,866) and amount of area (200,533,936 square metres), falls short of the number of areas (2,130) and amount of area, (224,668,487 square metres), that Afghanistan has reported as remaining to be addressed. In this regard the Committee noted the commitment of Afghanistan to review the work plan on a continuous basis and that Afghanistan and the States Parties as a whole would benefit if Afghanistan could inform the States Parties of changes to the work plan, including on the impact of new hazards and re-survey on current capacities, annual clearance and survey plans.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

10. 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 IMAS 07.11 for land release. These AMAS were reviewed by the AMAS Review Board and approved for application in Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). Subsequently, the SOPs of all demining organisations have been revised based on the requirements of these new AMAS and approved by DMAC. The Committee noted that Afghanistan had attached the relevant AMAS chapter to their Article 7 report.

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

11. The Committee recalled that the 12MSP had requested Afghanistan to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Afghanistan was acting upon the decisions of the 12MSP by providing updates relative to annual milestones for progress as contained in its extension request.

12. The Committee noted that Afghanistan's Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) was not conducted in 2017 due to a lack of funds. Afghanistan reported that MEIFCS remains to be implemented in 110 remaining districts.

VI. Mine risk reduction

13. 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 appropriate marking of hazardous areas, as well as providing mine risk education (MRE) to people living in the mine- and other ERW-impacted communities. Afghanistan reported nine international and local organisations were actively engaged in delivering MRE sessions, with a specific focus on returnees, scrap metal collectors, aid workers and internally displaced people.
14. The Committee noted the actions taken by Afghanistan in Mine Risk Education and noted these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ARGENTINA

15. In 2010, Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded its ability in 2010 to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas 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.
16. 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 concluded that Argentina had acted upon its commitment.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

I. Progress in implementation

17. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2017 a total of 29.91 square kilometres of land was released, including 8.27 square kilometres reduced through technical survey and 0.82 square kilometres released through clearance with a total of 1,749 anti-personnel mines, 20 anti-tank mines and 797 explosive remnants of war having been located and destroyed. Bosnia and

Herzegovina also reported 20.75 square kilometres having being declared as, “*area without defined risk*”.

18. The Committee observed a minor discrepancy in the area addressed by technical survey and clearance during 2017 with 9.16 square kilometres reported in Form C and 7,369,292 square metres reported in Form F.2.
19. The Committee observed that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that previously provided. The Committee noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating areas cancelled by non-technical survey, reduced by technical survey and areas cleared.
20. The Committee The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2017 that Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide considerably more clarity regarding its progress in implementation by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

21. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 16,699 “minefield records” remain to be addressed located within three administrative areas containing an estimated 82,000 anti-personnel mines and items of unexploded ordnance. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported an estimated area known to contain anti-personnel mines of 95 square kilometres and an estimated area suspected of containing anti-personnel mines of 1,061 square kilometres.
22. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be further clarified by presenting more precise information, including the use of table as set out in the Guide to Reporting, on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

23. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The request provided an updated summary of milestones to be achieved in the period of 2019-2020 including an estimated 164,000,000 square metres to be cancelled through non-technical survey, 26,000,000 square metres reduced through technical survey and 2,000,000 square metres to be released through clearance. During this extension period the BHMIC will carry out a “country assessment” to establish a more realistic baseline for planning, improve its information management capacity and continue carrying out survey and clearance activities in accordance with its annual priorities. Bosnia and Herzegovina will submit a request for extension by 31 March 2020.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

24. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that methods for release of suspect and confirmed hazardous areas are defined through national standards and standard operational procedures which are in accordance with the international standards for mine action (IMAS) including Standards and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on non-technical survey, technical survey and mine clearance. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that in cooperation with its partners it had commenced the process of revision of all the mine action standards and SOPs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and that by the end of 2017, the draft had been completed and are currently in the process of being adopted by the Demining Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on the status of these SOPs.
25. The Committee recalled its conclusions from the 16MSP that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that a draft Demining Law has been shared for public consultation and forwarded to the Council of Ministers for adoption. The Committee further recalled the BHMAL also initiated the process of drafting its Exit Strategy of Mine Action (2019-2025) to be adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2017. The Committee would welcome updated information on the progress of these matters from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the progress of these matters.

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

26. 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, a high level of donor funding and the sustained and increasing availability of funds provided by local government. The Committee observed that many of these matters are addressed in the request submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018 and remain pertinent to activities today.

VI. Mine risk reduction

27. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including prioritisation of most impacted groups of the population. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported it had taken measures to alert migrants to Mine/ERW/Cluster munitions risks. The Committee noted the actions taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CAMBODIA

I. Progress in implementation

28. Cambodia reported that in 2017 a total of 1,087 areas were released measuring 86,549,358 square metres, including 24,432,517 square metres cancelled, 15,484,867 square metres reduced, and 46,631,975 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 4,318 anti-personnel mines and 16,885 other explosive items destroyed.
29. Cambodia reported that in 2017 the baseline survey was on-going in 21 districts, identifying 815 suspected hazardous areas measuring 112,748,454 square metres.
30. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2017 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

31. The Committee noted that Cambodia provided 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 9,588 suspected hazardous areas remaining, totalling 894,868,065 square metres.
32. The Committee 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 in each region required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee also noted that annual updates on the results of survey efforts would be welcome.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

33. The Committee observed that Cambodia's Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 was adopted on December 2017. The Committee noted that the strategy projects to release a total of 1,709 square kilometres, including 877 square kilometres known or suspected to be contaminated with landmines, with annual milestones addressing 109.6 square kilometres per year. The Committee noted that, while Cambodia anticipates releasing a considerable amount of area, the annual milestone of 109.6 square kilometres for 8 years would result in Cambodia releasing less than the estimated remaining challenge of 894,868,065 square metres. The Committee welcomes further clarification from Cambodia on annual milestones contained within its strategy.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

34. The Committee recalled its conclusions from 2017 that, since Cambodia submitted its 2009 extension request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to

further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee would welcome further information on any amendments made to Cambodia's standards, in order to ensure that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies in lines with IMAS are in place in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan.

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

35. The Committee recalled that the Second Review Conference, (2RC) 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 commitments made in its extension request to develop and thereafter revise a single national clearance plan that takes into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators.

VI. Mine risk reduction

36. Cambodia reported on measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to at-risk populations through ten actors, including the national security sector, international INGOs and local self-help organisations, benefiting over 500,000 people. The Committee noted that beneficiary figures were disaggregated by sex and age. The Committee noted the actions taken by Cambodia in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CHAD

I. Progress in implementation

37. The Committee observed that Chad had not reported on progress in implementation for the period of 2017.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

38. The Committee observed that Chad provided some clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table with mine affected locations. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 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 part of northern Tibesti remained to be surveyed.

39. The Committee observed that Chad had reported the regions of Tibesti, Borkou and Ennedi West remain areas at risk. The Committee further observed that Chad could considerably increase the

clarity concerning the remaining by providing a detailed list of the newly discovered areas as well as further efforts by Chad to survey, identify and release mined areas.

40. The Committee further observed that Chad could considerably increase the 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

41. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2017 that in May 2014 Chad provided a provisional plan leading towards completion by its 1 January 2020 deadline, with this plan summarising which activities would take place in each region during various periods of time leading to 1 December 2019, and at what cost.
42. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2017 that given ongoing survey activities, unknown effects of risk factors and lack of clarity regarding resource mobilisation the Committee observed that an updated work plan, including detailed geographical milestones to be achieved in the years leading to Chad's deadline on 1 January 2020 is necessary.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

43. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2017 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. The Committee strongly recommended the consistent use of IMAS terminology including in Article 7 reports and the clarification of non-standardised terminology.

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

44. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) requested that Chad inform 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 challenges, efforts to diversify funding, efforts to address inadequacies in information management, and of developments in the 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 that information on these actions and factors remain outstanding.

VI. Mine risk reduction

45. In 2017, Chad reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through MRE programmes in the regions of Borkou and Lake Chad.
46. The Committee noted the actions taken by Chad in Mine Risk Education and welcomed information on Chad's efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive manner. The Committee also welcomes information on how Mine Risk Education Programs are coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CHILE

I. Progress in implementation

1. Chile reported that in 2017, it released 17 areas addressing a total of 855,180 square metres and destroying 107,223 anti-personnel mines and 53,097 anti-tank mines. The Committee observed that Chile could provide greater clarity in its progress in implementation if information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
2. In this regard, the Committee noted that between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2015 the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been reduced from 151 to 28 and the amount of area reduced from 17,289,098 square metres to 5.103.242 square metres.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Chile on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2011 extension request.
4. The Committee welcomed Chile employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee observed that Chile 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 five regions of the country. Chile reported that, as of the end of 2017, 24 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 1,814,057 square metres and 4 areas suspected to contain mines totalling 3,289,185 square metres remained to be addressed. The Committee noted a minor discrepancy between the number of suspect hazardous areas reported between Form C 3,289,185 square metres and Form F, Table 2.5 that reports all areas as confirmed hazardous areas.

6. Chile reported that, following a technical survey in, “Area de Peligro Seilao” of Antofagasta region Chile’s remaining challenge was increased from 1,971,780 square metres to 2,279,112 square metres. The Committee welcomes further information The Committee observed that further information on the impact of survey results on annual milestones in Chile’s work plan would be welcome.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

7. The Committee observed that Chile provided updated milestones for the period of 2018-2020 with 13 areas totalling 1,388,304 square metres to be released in 2018; 14 areas totalling 3,664,338 square metres to be released in 2019; and 1 area totalling 50,600 square metres to be released in 2020. The Committee observed that Chile’s work plan included a sharp increase in the amount of area to be addressed in the period 2019. The Committee noted that it would welcome updates from Chile on reasons for the sharp increase, and efforts to increase capacity to meet this increase.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2017 that humanitarian demining in Chile takes as its guide the IMAS as well as the Chilean Army’s Humanitarian Demining Manual. Chile reported that the safety of demining operations, for the deminers as well as for the population, is the main focus for Chile during demining operations.

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

9. The Committee recalled that the 11MSP had requested Chile to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Chile was acting upon the decisions of the 11MSP by providing updates relative to the timelines presented in its request. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further information on how outcomes of survey may change Chile’s understanding of the remaining implementation challenge.

VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Chile reported that mined areas are located in unpopulated border areas far from population centres and with difficult access, and that there is no regular transit of civilians through these areas. Chile reported that all mined areas are fenced and marked and that information is distributed to tourist, national agencies and private enterprises concerning the locations of mined areas. Chile also reported that its mine risk education campaign is carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in schools in areas close to minefields. The Committee noted the actions taken by Chile in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated

into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY COLOMBIA

I. Progress in implementation

1. Colombia reported that it released 136 areas in 2017, 75 areas were cancelled and 61 areas cleared. Addressing 1,941,671 square metres, including 208,866 square meters cancelled, 283,046 square meters reduced, 259,783 square metres cleared and 1,188,976 square meters addressed through “information collection” in 17 departments of the country. In the process Colombia destroyed 140 anti-personnel mines and 47 items of UXO. Colombia reported that humanitarian demining activities have taken place in 80 municipalities with 783 non-technical survey, 67 technical surveys, and 65 clearance operations having taken place.
2. The Committee observed that, as Colombia obtains more clarity regarding its remaining challenge, and is able to develop more specific work plans; greater measurability of progress in implementation is possible. The Committee observed that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Colombia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS.
3. The Committee observed that Colombia could provide increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of States parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee concluded that Colombia has provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table listing the number of events for each Colombian department.
5. Colombia reported an estimated 46,024,965 square metres of suspected contamination remaining. Colombia also reported that in 2017 a total of 121 “dangerous areas” measuring 630,657 square meters and 116 “confirmed dangerous areas” measuring 617,657 square meters were identified through survey activities.
6. The Committee observed that with survey activities ongoing the remaining challenge would be further clarified and that Colombia should present more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

7. Colombia reported that for 2018 it is projected that a total of 151 municipalities will have mine action interventions with a total of 1,445,971 square meters to be released. The Committee observed 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. The Committee further observed that continued updates on its plan as Colombia gains clarity of its Article 5 challenge would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. 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

9. 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 observed 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

10. The Committee observed that Colombia had provided information on efforts to carry out MRE including through projects for MRE in emergency situation, through the integration of MRE in the education system, MRE projects as a part of demining projects and traditional MRE through the community. Colombia reported that a total of 62,805 people benefited from mine risk education activities.
11. The Committee noted the actions taken by Colombia in Mine Risk Education and noted these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CROATIA

I. Progress in implementation

1. Croatia reported that in 2017 it released for civilian use a total of 36,485,259 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 6,600,192 square metres reduced and cancelled and 29,885,067 square metres cleared. These efforts resulted in the destruction of 1,393 anti-personnel mines, 40 anti-vehicle mines and 4,419 UXOs. In addition, the Croatian Armed Forces reported the clearance of military facilities measuring 481,900 square metres.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Croatia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further observed that Croatia could more clearly present implementation progress by using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS.
3. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that Croatia could provide increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the 14MSP.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed that Croatia had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Croatia reported that as of the end of 2017 a total hazardous area estimated as remaining to be addressed of 411.5 square kilometres located in 9 countries. This includes 269.51 square kilometres of confirmed hazardous area and 141.95 square kilometres of suspect hazardous area these areas are estimated to contain estimated to contain 32,830 anti-personnel mines and 6,441 anti-vehicle mines.
5. The Committee observed that Croatia could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of the remaining CHAs and SHAs in each county, 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.
6. 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. The Committee welcomes further information from Croatia on the impact of survey on annual milestones and deadline for completion.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

7. The Committee noted that Croatia submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that the request contained an updated work plan for completion by 01 March 2026, including tables indicating projected annual milestones to be addressed, including 54,400,000 square metres in 2019, 53,700,000 square metres in 2020, 55,500,000 square metres in 2021, 57,200,000 square metres in 2022, 58,600,000 square metres in 2023, 58,200,000 square metres in 2024, and 49,700,000 square metres in 2025.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. 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 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 SHAs by using technical survey which was not possible under the previous law and that new regulations and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are currently being elaborated which will prescribe in detail how mine action activities will take place in the field. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in that information on these new regulations and SOPs would be welcome.

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

9. 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 SHAs in forested areas. The Committee further recalled Croatia reported to be working on technology for hyperspectral non-technical survey employing unmanned aerial vehicles with the aim to better analyse and define SHAs in forested areas. Reiterating its 2016 and 2017 conclusions, the Committee observed that further information on these methodologies would be welcomed.

VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Croatia has reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including 77 lectures and presentations to 27,890 citizens in 2017. Croatia also reported 26,800 people were educated through 66 lectures of the, 'Less Arms, less tragedy' campaign conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and relevant police departments. Specific MRE was also given to a variety of associations and users of forested areas, including tourists. The Committee noted the actions taken by Croatia in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

I. Progress in implementation

1. Cyprus reported in 2012 that the sole circumstance that impeded its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas 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 that has 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

2. Cyprus reported that, since July 2013, there are no anti-personnel mines 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.
3. Cyprus reported that it has taken concrete steps to ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in minefields and submitted to UNFICYP information on 28 known mined areas and that, according to information released by UNFICYP, those 28 minefields were subject to non-technical survey by UNMAS, 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

4. 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 concluded that Cyprus had acted upon its commitment.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ECUADOR

I. Progress in implementation

1. Ecuador reported that in 2017 it addressed 7 mined areas releasing a total of 33,728.07 square metres, 10,919.47 cancelled, 7,332.21 reduced, and 15,476.39 square metres cleared. Ecuador

reported destroyed 453 anti-personnel mines, 5 mines and 5 explosive remnants of war. Ecuador reported that it had released 513,984.77 square metres destroying 11,884 anti-personnel mines during the period 2000 to 2017.

2. 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 observed that this information was disaggregated in manner consistent with IMAS. 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.
3. The Committee welcomed Ecuador employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed 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 by geographical area including the estimated size of each area, the types and quantity of anti-personnel mines in each area.
5. The Committee observed a small discrepancy in the remaining challenge reported by Ecuador between 6 areas measuring 108,474 square metres and 5 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totaling 97,468.61 square metres as given by Form D. The Committee would also welcome further updates from Ecuador on the impact of survey on its remaining challenge and annual milestones.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. Ecuador reported that it will address 2 areas measuring 26,159 square metres in 2018, 9 areas measuring 12,555 square metres in 2019, 12 areas measuring 8,431 square metres in 2020, 10 areas measuring 10,340 square metres in 2021 and 26 areas measuring 7,521 square metres in 2022. Ecuador also reported that it will address 1 area of the Km² of Tiwinza measuring 7,594.61 square metres during the extension period will be carried out by the Binational demining Unit of Ecuador and Peru based on agreement between Ecuador and Peru.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. The Committee observed that Ecuador reported that the Engineer Battalion, General Demining Command and Binational Demining Unit of Ecuador - Peru use the Manual Demining Technique that has been established according to IMAS.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Ecuador to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Ecuador had acted on its commitment to submit a relative to the commitments and timelines contain in section 11 of its extension request and the results of these efforts.
9. The Committee observed that the Convention would benefit from Ecuador providing further information on: i) the outcome of survey and clearance efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ecuador's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge and priorities for clearance, ii) progress made relative to the commitment and timelines to carry out quality control of cleared areas to complete the process of delivery of land that has been cleared since 2000 to the local community and the results of these efforts, iii) efforts undertaken to reach out to international entities to achieve Ecuador's desired outcome to conclude implementation well in advance of its requested extension deadline and the results of these effort.

VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Ecuador reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including activities by the IV Ecuador-Peru Binational Campaign for Anti-Personnel Mine Risk Education (ERM) in the communities of Miaza, Héroes del Cóndor and Shaime with an approximate population of 500 persons.
11. The Committee noted that further information from Ecuador would be welcome on its efforts to ensure that Mine Risk Education activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY IRAQ

I. Progress in implementation

1. Iraq reported that, in 2017, DMA released 241 mined areas, addressing 29,945,799 square metres, including 15,097 square metres of clearance in areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines, 23,147,092 square metres in areas affected by anti-tank mines, and 6,783,610 square metres of areas reported to be mixed contamination. DMA reported that through these efforts a total of 19, 823 explosive devices were destroyed.
2. Iraq reported that, in 2017, IKMAA released a total of 2,597,680 square metres. This includes 546,013 square metres reduced, and 2,051,667 square metres cleared. IKMAA also reported cancellation of an additional 5.2 square kilometres through non-technical survey.

3. The Committee observed that the information shared by Iraq could be further clarified by using terminology consistent with the IMAS. The Committee further observed that 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 IMAS. The Committee noted the importance of Iraq continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance, reduction or cancellation.
4. The Committee observed that Iraq could provide increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of States parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee observed 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 types and quantity, when known, of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area.
6. DMA reported 283 suspect hazardous areas in four Governorates, including three Governorates bordering Iran measuring 1,071,931,305 square metres remain to be addressed. DMA reported a further six mined areas in two Governorates, Basra and Maysan measuring 26,855,456 square metres and 47 suspect hazardous areas in six governorates Basra, Diyala, Maysan, Niniveh, Salah al Din and Dhi qar, measuring 17,387,079 square metres remain to be addressed. IKMAA reported 2,943 mined areas measuring 171,458,064 square metres remaining to be addressed.
7. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, Iraq had provided 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

8. The Committee observed that Iraq had provided a work plan annexed to its transparency report indicating areas in which it would undertake clearance and survey, indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how and by whom.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

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

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

10. The Committee observed that Iraq had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2017 extension request granted at the 16MSP. The Committee further noted that Iraq had provided a plan for non-technical survey operations in the different areas of the country including NTS plans for areas liberated from ISIS.

V. Mine risk reduction

11. 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 programs and trainings with international and national organisations. Iraq reported a total of 677 MRE activities benefiting 130,325 beneficiaries for the reporting period by IKMAA and 407 MRE activities for DMA. The Committee noted the actions taken by the DMA and IKMAA in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY MAURITANIA

I. Progress in implementation

1. The Committee welcomed Mauritania employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) in reporting on progress in implementation.
2. Mauritania reported that in 2017 it cleared the entire area of Sebkhata Fogra, in the District of Ain Bintilli, destroying 93 anti-personnel mines and 35 anti-tank mines.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. Mauritania reported that it had no mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.
4. The Committee notes Mauritania's report that it had addressed all mined areas. In this regard the Committee welcomes the submission by Mauritania of a declaration of completion in accordance with the process established at the 7MSP.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. Mauritania reported that at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017, surveys of the suspected areas were carried out and confirmed that all suspected areas were located within Mauritania's territory. Mauritania reported that these areas have now been cleared.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY PERU

I. Progress in implementation

1. Peru reported that in 2017 it addressed a total of 10 mined areas addressing 27,154.39 square metres, 10,737.55 square metres cancelled, 7,170.66 reduced, and 9,246.18 square metres cleared, destroying 396 anti-personnel mines.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Peru allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2016 extension request. The Committee further observed that progress in implementation was presented in a manner consistent with the IMAS.
3. The Committee noted that Peru had addressed a total of 10 mined areas in 2017, the Committee observed that this falls short of the projected 22 areas. The Committee welcomes further information from Peru regarding progress in implementation.
4. The Committee welcomed Peru employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) in reporting on progress in implementation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee observed that Peru 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 four sectors of the country. This list included the number of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Peru reported that, as of the end of 2017, 124 areas suspected and known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 396,170.86 square metres remained to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. The Committee observed that Peru had provided a work plan leading towards completion. Indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected. In this regard Peru intends to address a total of 124 areas, including 12 areas to be treated during 2018, 12 areas in 2019, 20 areas in 2020, 20 areas in 2021, 18 areas in 2022, 21 areas in 2023, and 21 areas in 2024.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. Peru reported that humanitarian demining applies processes according to land release standards approved by the national authority on humanitarian demining. In this regard the Committee recalled its conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that results from Peru on the new land release policies and on their implementation would be welcome.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Peru to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2016 extension request. In this regard, the Committee noted that Peru had reported on progress made relative to the commitments contained in section 15 of its extension request.
9. The Committee observed that in accordance with the decision of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties on the 30 May, 2018, Peru submitted an updated work plan to the States Parties.

VI. Mine risk reduction

10. The Committee noted that Peru did not provide any reporting 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.
11. The Committee noted that further information from Peru would be welcome on its efforts to ensure that Mine Risk Education activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SENEGAL

I. Progress in implementation

1. Senegal reported that in 2017 it addressed 18 mined areas, releasing 106,658 square metres and destroying 3 anti-personnel mines.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Senegal allowed for comparability with annual milestones of progress as given in Senegal's updated work plan.
3. The Committee welcomed Senegal employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) in reporting on progress in implementation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed that Senegal had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee further observed that Senegal reported that 68 mined areas remain to

be addressed totalling 282,945.103 square metres, including 42 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 262,025.103 square metres and 6 suspected hazardous areas totalling 20,920 square metres. Senegal also reported an additional 20 areas with an unknown size, which remain to be surveyed. In addition, Senegal indicated that non-technical surveys need to be undertaken in 144 localities in 2018-2019.

5. The Committee further observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Senegal could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed and by using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating areas cancelled by non-technical survey, reduced by technical survey and areas cleared.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. Senegal reported that it will address 14 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 139,174.893 square metres in 2018, 23 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 340,291.451 square metres in 2019. Senegal also reported that a remaining 144 localities will be subject to non-technical surveys by 2020 depending on security.
7. The Committee observed that Senegal planned to address 14 mined areas totalling 139,174.893 square metres in 2018 and 23 mined areas totalling 340,291.451 in 2019. The Committee noted that the size of area planned to be addressed for the period 2018-2019, 479,466.344 square metres is greater than its reported remaining challenge, 282,945.103 square metres. The Committee welcomes further clarification from Senegal on its work plan to address its remaining challenge.
8. The Committee noted that Senegal had provided updated information on efforts by Senegal to mobilise resources, including a call for traditional partners for support. Senegal reported an annual contribution of 500,000,000 CFA francs for these activities.
9. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) in 2017 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 observed that information acquired by additional surveys will affect the implementation of the plan. The Committee observed 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

10. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that 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

11. 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 was acting in accordance with the 14MSP decisions.

VI. Mine risk reduction

12. Senegal reported that mine risk education programmes were not carried out in 2017 due to a lack of funding. The Committee observed that further information on Senegal's efforts to ensure that mine risk education activities are resourced would be welcome. The Committee noted the importance of Senegal developing Mine Risk Education programs being developed in line with Maputo Action Plan, #10.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SERBIA

I. Progress in implementation

47. Serbia reported that it completed one project during 2017 addressing 275,800 square metres of suspect hazardous area through clearance in Bujanovac municipality and in the process destroyed 3 Anti-personnel mines and 1 UXO. Serbia also reported that it is currently conducting technical survey on a second project measuring 113,600 square metres.

48. The Committee observed 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 observed that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance, and area released through cancellation.

49. The Committee welcomed Serbia employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

50. The Committee observed that Serbia had provided high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of six remaining areas suspected to contain anti-

personnel mines in six localities of Bujanovac municipality. Serbia reported that, as of 1 April 2018, 12 SHAs totalling 2,354,540 square metres remained to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

51. The Committee noted that Serbia submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The request includes a work plan for completion including addressing a total of 2 areas in 2018 measuring 649,000 square metres, 3 areas in 2019 measuring 462,400 square metres, 2 areas in 2020 measuring 467,880 square metres, 2 areas in 2021 measuring 269,240, 1 area in 2022 measuring 291,400 square metres, and 2 areas in 2023 measuring 214,620 square metres.

52. The Committee observed that funds for demining operations in 2017 were allocated from the Serbian State budget, which the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) matched with US funding. These funds were allocated for technical survey of five projects measuring 995,200 square metres. Serbia reported that it had completed one project and is currently conducting technical survey on a second mined area, with a further three projects to be implemented based on securing funds from donors and other sources of funding.

53. The Committee noted that Serbia will double its allocation of funding from the State budget for demining operations in 2018. In this regard, the Committee observed that Serbia has committed to increase its financial resources to fulfil its obligations during the next extension period.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

54. In its 2018 report Serbia provided a description of the methods used to release areas suspected to contain mines. The Committee observed that Serbia would benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.

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

55. 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. The Committee noted that the lack of adequate financial resources as one challenge confronting Serbia in completing its Article 5 obligations by 1 March 2019. The Committee noted that Serbia had a plan to increase contributions from its State budget for demining operations in 2018 and that this demonstrated greater national ownership in this regard. The Committee welcomes further information from Serbia to keep States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia's national contribution to implementation.

56. The Committee noted that in this context, Serbia using all resources and techniques available, could be in a position to proceed with implementation much faster than suggested and that this

would benefit both the Convention and Serbia itself. The Committee recalled that in granting the request, the 13MSP had noted the importance of external support to ensure implementation and that Serbia could benefit from developing a resource mobilisation strategy, and welcomes further information from Serbia on possible resource mobilisation strategies that take into account the need to reach out to a wide range of national and international funding sources.

VI. Mine risk reduction

57. Serbia has reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Serbia reported that contaminated areas are visibly marked with warning signs in Serbian and Albanian languages. Serbia further reported that affected communities are informed about demining activities, including through schools and other media. The Committee noted the actions taken by Serbia in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SOUTH SUDAN

I. Progress in implementation

1. South Sudan reported that in 2017 it released a total of 1,371 areas addressing 11,893,886 square metres, including, 2,043,206 square metres cancelled, 3 square metres reduced by technical survey, and 9,850,679 square metres cleared, destroying 734 anti-personnel mines, 42 anti-tank mines, and 33,824 items of UXO.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by South Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that previously provided. The Committee welcomed South Sudan using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating areas cancelled by non-technical survey, reduced by technical survey and areas cleared.
3. The Committee welcomed South Sudan employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) in reporting on progress in implementation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed that South Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and information on the geographic location of most areas including by annexing maps. South Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2017, 220 areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel totalling 79,631,722 square metres remained to be addressed including 56 areas totalling 2,579,507 square metres known to contain anti-personnel landmines and 164 areas totalling 77,052,215 square metres suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.
5. The Committee observed that with survey activities ongoing the Committee would welcome South Sudan continuing to provide regular updates 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

6. South Sudan reported that despite increasing insecurity there has been progress on clearance. The Committee observed that further information from South Sudan on national plans for survey and clearance, including annual milestones would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that South Sudan reported that land release process is implemented in line with National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) that are based on the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). All survey areas are either cancelled through non-technical survey or prioritized for technical survey and clearance.

V. Mine risk reduction

8. The Committee observed 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, at risk communities and primary school children. In 2017, South Sudan reported that its MRE programmes reached a total of 346,254 beneficiaries. The Committee observed that information provided by South Sudan on MRE were disaggregated by age and sex.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SUDAN

I. Progress in implementation

6. Sudan reported that in 2017 it addressed 26 areas measuring 1,041,760 square metres known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 74,875 square metres cancelled, 259,551 square metres reduced and 707,334 square metres addressed through clearance, destroying 144 anti-personnel mines, 59 antitank mines and 98,885 items of unexploded ordnance.
7. The Committee noted that the information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2013 extension request.
8. The Committee further observed that while this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with previous recommendations endorsed by the States Parties, minor discrepancies were present. The Committee noted a minor discrepancy between Sudan addressing 1,041,760 square metres as given in 2. Status of programs for destruction of APMs in mined areas, (Article 5) and 795,645 square metres as recorded in Annex II: Areas Released, 1 January 2017-31 December 2017. The Committee noted that clarifications with respect to a minor discrepancy between the reporting of 144 Anti-personnel mines destroyed as given in 2. Status of programs for destruction of APMs in mined areas, (Article 5), and 30 anti-personnel mines destroyed as recorded in Annex II: Areas Released, 1 January 2017-31 December 2017, would also be welcome.
9. The Committee welcomed Sudan employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) in reporting on progress in implementation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

10. 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, and information on the geographic location of each area. Sudan reported a remaining challenge at the end of 2017 of 18,733,895 square metres. This included, 52 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,402,260 square metres and 42 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 16,331,635 square metres remaining to be addressed.
11. The Committee noted that while the number of areas to be addressed had decreased from the number Sudan reported previously, from 99 to 94. Sudan had reported addressing 26 areas during 2017. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, Sudan's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas identified as a result of ongoing re-survey efforts.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

12. The Committee noted that Sudan submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that the request for extension included an updated work plan for completion with a revised number of areas per state that it intends to address during the period. This includes; 80 suspect hazardous areas measuring 3.8 square kilometres and 3 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 4.2 square kilometres in 2017-

2018; 54 suspect hazardous areas measuring 10.2 square kilometres and 3 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 13.2 square kilometres in 2018-2019; 16 suspect hazardous areas measuring 5 square kilometres square metres and 2 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 5.4 square kilometres in 2019-2020.

13. The Committee observed that Sudan's work plan included a sharp increase in the amount of area to be addressed in the period 2018-2019. The Committee noted that it would welcome updates from Sudan on reasons for the sharp increase, and efforts to increase capacity to meet this increase. The Committee further observed national plans for survey and clearance could be more clearly presented if Sudan used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS.
14. Sudan reported that insecurity in parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile States has impacted the efforts of Sudan to meet its Article 5 Commitments by its 1 April 2019 deadline. Sudan reported that its work plan is based on the assumptions that there will be an improvement in the security situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. Sudan reported that the other factors that may hamper the implementation includes, conflict, frequent movement of population, finding additional hazards, high metallic soils, and the rainy season. The Committee welcomes further information from Sudan on these matters.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

15. The Committee noted that Sudan had provided detailed notes on its land release process. The Committee further noted that Sudan is currently undertaking a review of its national technical standard guidelines. The Committee noted that information on Sudan's review of its national technical standards and guidelines would be welcome.

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

16. 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. The Committee noted that Sudan was acting upon the decisions of the 13MSP by providing specific updates on each of these matters. The Committee noted that Sudan has provided updates relative to annual milestones for progress as contained in Section 17 of its extension its extension request.
17. The Committee noted that Sudan has provided updates on outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained has changed Sudan's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge, The Committee observed that the Eastern States of Sudan were accessible for demining operations, while access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was limited for clearance and survey operations due to insecurity. The Committee observed that Sudan had undertaken limited survey and clearance in the two States in support of humanitarian aid, surveying and clearing a total of 37,898 kilometres of road. The Committee would welcome updates on the results of survey and clearance activities and their impact on Sudan's implementation of its Article 5 obligations.

18. The Committee noted Sudan had provided an update on 'data clean-up' efforts, Sudan reported that it had aimed to complete data clean-up during 2017. The Committee observed that given the importance of accurate data to the status of operations, further information on Sudan's progress in this area would be welcome.
19. The Committee noted that Sudan provided updates regarding external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Sudan to support implementation; as well as Sudan's efforts to facilitate the operations of international demining organizations and to expand indigenous demining capacity, and the results of these efforts. Sudan reported that the Government of Sudan had contributed USD \$2,000,000 to support Sudan Mine Action Programmes during 2017. With additional funding of USD \$2,737,781 being mobilised through the Ordnance Disposal Office and UNMAS.

VI. Mine risk reduction

20. Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through the marking of hazardous areas. The Committee noted that Sudan had been providing Mine Risk Education to local population groups in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, West Kordofan and Dafur States reaching 3,608,279 beneficiaries.
21. The Committee noted the actions taken by Sudan in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THAILAND

I. Progress in implementation

1. Thailand reported that in 2017 it addressed a total of 42 suspect hazardous areas located in 16 districts of 9 Provinces, releasing 30,979,269 square metres, including 26,450,492 square metres cancelled, 4,115,068 square metres reduced and 413,705 square metres cleared. Thailand reported that through these efforts 5,664 anti-personnel landmines and 237 other explosive items were destroyed.
2. The Committee observed a minor discrepancy in the amount of area reported released in 2017 between 30,979,269 square metres in Table D-2, and 30,948,474 square metres as the area reported released in D1. Suspect hazardous areas that can be operated/surveyed 20,849,269

square metres, and D2. SHAs that are pending demarcation process, 10,099,205 square metres. The committee welcomes Thailand's clarification on the area addressed in 2017.

3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with information provided by Thailand in its 2017 extension request. The Committee welcomes Thailand's report of progress in implementation in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee noted the importance of Thailand continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance, reduction or cancellation.
4. The Committee welcomed Thailand employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee observed that Thailand provided clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table with number and size SHA by district. Thailand reported that that, as of the end of 2017, an additional suspect hazardous area measuring 30,795 square metres was identified. Thailand reported a remaining challenge as of 31 December 2017 consisting of 279 suspect hazardous areas located in 29 districts, of 13 provinces totalling an area of 391,656,698 square metres. The Committee noted that Thailand's has classified its remaining challenge in Phase 1. SHAs that can be operated/surveyed measuring 42,946,771 square metres and 2. SHAs that are inaccessible due to pending demarcation process, 348,709,927 square metres.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. The Committee observed that Thailand planned to address 67 suspect hazardous areas measuring 71,152,827 square metres in 2018 with a remaining challenge after 2018 consisting of 215 suspect hazardous areas measuring 306,985,681 square metres.
7. The Committee further observed that information on Thailand's progress to complete Phase 1 by 1 November 2018 would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. The Committee observed that Thailand reported that in 2017 it had re-established the National Committee for Mine Action under the Order of the Prime Minister, with the Prime Minister as its chairperson.

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

9. The Committee observed that Thailand had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2017 extension request granted at the 16MSP. The Committee recalled Thailand's commitment to submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request.
10. The Committee further recalled the decision of the 16MSP had requested Thailand to keep the States Parties informed on progress in updating the National Mine Action Standards in line with the latest version of IMAS and the results of this effort; i) resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Thailand to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to expand its civilian demining capacity and the results of these effort; ii) updates on efforts to explore new technology to help survey areas with are hard to access near the borders and the results of these efforts; iii) update on efforts to make continuous improvements in the capacity of its information management team, systems and processes to enable more precise information on survey and clearance operations to be collected and displayed. The Committee would welcome updates with respect to these commitments and milestones.

VI. Mine risk reduction

11. The Committee observed that Thailand has reported in detail on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including by raising awareness and promoting behavioural changes through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities. Thailand reported that its MRE programmes reached 41,913 people in 2017.
12. The Committee observed that the information on MRE messaging and beneficiaries provided by Thailand was not disaggregated by gender and age and encourages Thailand to disaggregate statistics in this manner. The Committee welcomes further information on Thailand's efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

I. Progress in implementation

4. The Democratic Republic of the Congo report covered the period 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2017. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported a remaining challenge in at 31 December 2013 of 1,711,763.02 square metres. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported addressing 103 mined areas, releasing a total of 1,717,327 square metres, including; 333,934 square metres in 2014, 493,066 square metres in 2015, and 379,859 square metres in 2016, 445,150 square metres in 2017 and 65,318 square metres for the period January to March 2018. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also reported that it had suspended or closed four mined areas measuring 90,229 square metres.
5. The Committee observed that the information provided by the Democratic Republic of the Congo on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided previously. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo could increase clarity on progress in implementation through the use of terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with IMAS (i.e. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”); disaggregating data by activity that is non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.
6. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo could provide more clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

7. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that, as of 31 March 2018, 56 mined areas remaining to be addressed measuring an estimated 535,359.20 square metres, including 27 mined areas in 9 provinces remaining from its initial survey and 29 newly mined areas in 9 provinces, including 16 areas measuring an estimated 286,640 square metres and a further 15 mined areas with an area yet to be determined.
8. The Committee noted that further information from the Democratic Republic of the Congo regarding its remaining challenge by providing annual milestones for addressing its remaining challenge would be welcome. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed through the use of terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with IMAS (i.e. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”); disaggregating data by activity that is non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

9. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had tasked NPA to undertake resurvey of 27 mined areas in 9 provinces remaining from its initial survey in 2018. The Committee noted that updates on the results of survey and their impact on the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s projected annual milestones and remaining challenge would also be welcome.

10. The Democratic Republic of the Congo further reported that it had not been able to conduct survey in Dungu territory in Upper Province and Uele and Aru territories in Ituri Province due to insecurity. The Committee observed that regular updated information on the security situation in Ituri Province would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

11. The Committee welcomes further information from the Democratic Republic of the Congo regarding progress in implementation of actions contained within the Maputo Action Plan, in particular Action #9.

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

12. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2014 extension request. The Committee further recalled that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had committed to develop an operational plan by 1 January 2015. The Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitting an updated operational plan.

13. The Committee also noted that the Convention would benefit from the Democratic Republic of the Congo informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following: (i) the number, location and size of remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey, (ii) efforts and the results of efforts to mobilise funding to contribute to covering the costs of implementing the Democratic Republic of the Congo's national plans for survey and mine clearance, (iii) efforts and the results of efforts undertaken to strengthen national capacity to implement the Democratic Republic of the Congo's national plan, and, (iv) Whether circumstances which had previously impeded the timely implementation of the Convention were continuing to affect the fulfilment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's obligations, (v) additional efforts made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the results of these efforts to make use of the full range of practical methods to release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines, in accordance with the United Nations Mine Action Standards.

VI. Mine risk reduction

15. The Democratic Republic of the Congo 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. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported for 2017 and 2018 4,188 sessions for a total of 77,772 beneficiaries. The Committee noted the actions taken by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national

and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TURKEY

I. Progress in implementation

1. Turkey reported that in 2017 it released 19 mined areas addressing 8,482,671 square metres, including, 7,583,110 square meters cancelled, 75,445 square metres reduced and 824,116 square metres addressed through clearance resulting in the destruction of 61,508 anti-personnel mines and 1,026 anti-tank mines.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous information provided by Turkey. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
3. The Committee observed that Turkey had increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed that Turkey had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a table summarising the total, per border area, of the number of confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) and suspected hazardous areas (SHA), and, where known, the estimated size of area and the number of emplaced anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, where known. Turkey reported a total of 3,061 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines measuring 164,082,568 square metres, with 718,663 anti-personnel mines and 194,649 anti-tank mines, and 701 suspect hazardous areas remaining to be addressed.
5. The Committee observed 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.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. Turkey reported that five new demining companies have been approved by the Ministry of Defence, with three of those teams planning to be operational by the end of 2018 and the remaining in 2019. Turkey also reported that Phase 2 of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project would commence in May 2018 with the plan to release 1,200,000 square metres of land. The Committee would welcome further information from Turkey on annual milestones for land to be addressed under Phase 2 and further phases.

7. Turkey reported that the National Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2019-2021 had been drafted which is expected to be approved and published in the Official Gazette in 2018. The plan covers national capacity development, survey and clearance of mined areas and areas containing UXOs within the borders of the Republic of Turkey, provisions for MRE, assistance to mine victims. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 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.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. Turkey reported that it had prepared and submitted the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) including land release policy to the National Standards Institute of Turkey. The NMAS are expected to be approved in 2018. The Committee observed that further information on the timeline for approving national standards, as well as the standards and methodologies to be employed would be welcome.

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

9. 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 finalised 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 observed that, as further revisions to the plan are made, ongoing updates by Turkey on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcome. The Committee further observed 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.
10. The Committee observed 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 that places the TURMAC under the Directorate of General Plans and Principles of the Ministry of National Defence.

VI. Mine risk reduction

11. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs. The Committee noted the actions taken by Turkey in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

Table 1: Status of implementation of Article 5 of the Convention¹

State Party	Total released in 2017 (square metres)				Remaining challenge as of 2017 (square metres)		
	Cancelled	Reduced	Cleared	Total ²	Suspected Hazardous Area	Confirmed Hazardous Area	Total ³
Afghanistan	1, 729,047	948,213	27, 848,953	30, 526,213	97, 603,835	127, 064,652	224, 668,487
Angola ⁴					103, 970,384	141, 057,978	245, 028,362
Argentina ⁵							
Bosnia & Herzegovina ⁶		8,270,000	820,000	29, 910,000 ⁷	1, 061, 000,000	95, 000,000	1, 156, 000,000
Cambodia	24, 432,517	15, 484,867	46, 631,975	86, 549,358			894, 868,065
Chad							104, 542,233 ⁸
Chile				855,180	3, 289,185	1, 814,057	5, 103,242
Colombia			287,661	287,661	51, 244,350		51, 244,350
Croatia ⁹		6, 600,192 ¹⁰	30, 366,967 ¹¹	36, 967,159	141, 950,000	269, 510,000	411, 500,000
Cyprus ¹²							
Democratic Republic of the Congo				1,717,327			535,359.20
Ecuador	10,919.47	7,332.21	15,476.39	33,728.07			108,474
Eritrea ¹³							
Ethiopia ¹⁴							
Iraq				32, 543,479 ¹⁵			1, 243, 389,369 ¹⁶
Mauritania							
Niger ¹⁷							
Oman ¹⁸							
Peru	10,737.55	7,170.66	9,246.18	27,154.39			396,170.86
Senegal				106,658	20,920	262,025.103	282,945.103
Serbia				275,800	2, 354,540	0	2, 354,540
Somalia ¹⁹							
South Sudan	2, 043,206	3	9, 850,679	11, 893,886	77, 052,215	2, 579,507	79, 631,722
Sudan	74,875	259,551	707,334	1, 041,760	16, 331,635	2, 402,260	18, 733,895
Tajikistan ²⁰							
Thailand	26, 450,492	4, 115,068	413,705	30, 979,269			391, 656,698
Turkey	7, 583,110	75,445	824,116	8, 482,671			164, 082,568
Ukraine ²¹							
United Kingdom							997,930
Yemen ²²							
Zimbabwe	1, 768,118	2, 794,713	1, 655,681	6, 218,692	0	61, 793,990	61, 793,990

Table 2: Status of implementation of Maputo Action Plan (MAP) Actions #8-#11²³

State Party	Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2018 ²⁴	Level of clarity ²⁵ on the remaining implementation challenge (Action #8)	Reported on the establishment and application of the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies (Action #9)	Reported on the provision of mine risk reduction and education programmes (Action #10)	Use of the Guide to Reporting in the preparation of Article 7 report submitted in 2018
Afghanistan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Angola					
Argentina	√				
Bosnia & Herzegovina	√	Some Clarity	√	√	
Cambodia	√	Clarity	√	√	√
Chad	√	Some clarity		√	
Chile	√	High degree of clarity		√	
Colombia	√	Some clarity	√	√	√
Croatia	√	Clarity	√	√	
Cyprus					
Democratic Republic of Congo	√	Clarity			√
Ecuador	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Eritrea					
Ethiopia					
Iraq	√	Clarity	√	√	
Mauritania	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Niger					
Oman					
Peru	√	High degree of clarity	√		√
Senegal	√	Some clarity	√		√
Serbia	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Somalia					
South Sudan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Sudan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Tajikistan					
Thailand	√	Clarity	√	√	√
Turkey	√	Clarity	√	√	√
Ukraine					
United Kingdom	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	
Yemen					
Zimbabwe	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√

¹ Source: Information provided by States Parties in their Article 7 reports submitted until 15 May 2018, unless otherwise noted. Article 7.2: The information provided in accordance with this Article shall be updated by the States Parties annually, covering the last calendar year, and reported to the Secretary General of the United Nations not later than 30 April of each year". Accordingly, in order to accommodate States Parties, Article 7 Transparency reports were accepted for the benefit of this report up until 15 May, 2018. States that submit later than 15 May, 2018 will be included in summary Status of implementation of Article 5 of the Convention, at the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties, (17MSP).

² The total of this column is not the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on areas released in a disaggregated manner.

³ The total of this column is not the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on the remaining challenge in a disaggregated manner.

⁴ These figures are based on Angola's Article 5 extension request submitted on 11 May 2017.

⁵ In 2010, Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Argentina 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.

⁶ Bosnia and Herzegovina reported progress and remaining challenge in square kilometres. These figures have been converted to square metres for the purpose of this table.

⁷ This total includes Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting the release of 20.75 square kilometres as, 'area without defined risk'.

⁸ Chad's provisional plan of action 2014-2019 indicates 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 part of northern Tibesti remained to be surveyed.

⁹ Croatia reported progress and remaining challenge in kilometres squared. These figures have been converted to metres squared for the purpose of this table.

¹⁰ This figure includes land cancelled and land reduced.

¹¹ This figure includes 29,885,067 square metres cleared for civilian use and 481,900 square metres cleared in military facilities.

¹² Cyprus reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Cyprus, to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Cyprus had indicated that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question.

¹³ Eritrea did not submit an Article 7 report by 15 May 2018.

¹⁴ Ethiopia did not submit an Article 7 report by 15 May 2018.

¹⁵ Please note this figure is the combined total addressed in 2017 as reported by DMA and IKMAA

¹⁶ Please note this figure is the combined total are remaining to be addressed as reported by DMA and IKMAA

¹⁷ Niger did not submit an Article 7 report by 15 May 2018.

¹⁸ Oman did not submit an Article 7 report by 15 May 2018.

¹⁹ Somalia did not submit an Article 7 report by 15 May 2018.

²⁰ Tajikistan did not submit an Article 7 report by 15 May 2018.

²¹ Ukraine did not submit an Article 7 report by 15 May 2018.

²² Yemen did not submit an Article 7 report by 15 May 2018.

²³ Source: information provided by States Parties in their Article 7 reports submitted until 5 October 2017, unless otherwise noted.

²⁴ Article 7.2: "The information provided in accordance with this Article shall be updated by the States Parties annually, covering the last calendar year, and reported to the Secretary General of the United Nations not later than 30 April of each year". Accordingly, in order to accommodate States Parties, Article 7 transparency reports were accepted for the benefit of this report up until 15 May, 2018. States Parties that submit reports later than 15 May, 2018 will be included in the "Status of implementation of Article 5 of the Convention" table, presented at the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties, (17MSP).

²⁵ In accordance with the methodology described in Part I of "Preliminary Observations of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation".