

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.