

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.