

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

I. Progress in implementation

1. The United Kingdom reported that Phase 5a of demining /land release operations began in 2016 and continued into 2017. The United Kingdom reported that 33 suspect hazardous areas were addressed in 2017 at Goose Green and Stanley Area. The United Kingdom reported in the process 2,700 anti-personnel landmines having been destroyed.
2. The Committee observed that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if the United Kingdom used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS.
3. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom 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, including an annex of all remaining areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines to be addressed in two phases. Phase 5a, (November 2016- March 2018) and, Phase 5b, (April 18 – March 20). The Committee further noted 18 mined areas contained with Phase 5a Cluster 2 in which technical survey had been completed are awaiting clearance in Phase 5b. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom had identified an estimated area of 997,930 square metres remaining to be addressed, with the size of other suspect mined areas to be determined during Phase 5b. The Committee welcomes further information from the United Kingdom on annual milestones to be addressed within each phase and cluster.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. The Committee noted that the request contained an updated work plan for completion. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom had a plan to address a remaining 18 areas processed by technical survey in Phase 5a. The Committee further noted that in Phase 5b, the United Kingdom aims to address 42 mined areas in 3 clustered geographical areas. Cluster 3: 2 mined areas measuring 2,570 square metres; Cluster 2: 19 mined areas measuring 390,680 square metres; Cluster 4: 10 mined areas with an area yet to be determined;, and Cluster 5: 6 mined areas measuring 604,680 square metres with an additional 5 mined areas with a size yet to be determined. The Committee notes that the United Kingdom expects to deal with all remaining areas within Phase 5b expect for the area located at Yorke Bay for which funding will be sought once the extent of the cost of clearance is known.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

6. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that the United Kingdom reported that it applies IMAS in its demining operations, as well as local environmental and planning regulations.

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

7. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested the United Kingdom to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom was acting upon the decisions of the 9MSP by providing a detailed explanation of how demining is proceeding and the implications for future demining, including the preparation and status of work conducted under national demining programs and financial and technical means available.
8. The Committee also observed that the United Kingdom had acted upon the decisions of the 9MSP to provide, in addition to Article 7 requirements, regular reports on the following elements: i) establishment of a National Mine Action Authority and other implementation bodies; ii) establishment of the necessary regulatory framework; progress on contracts let and budgets made available; iii) progress in clearance; iv) Environmental, ecological and technical assessments undertaken.

VI. Mine risk reduction

9. The United Kingdom reported that there were no changes in the use of fences and minefield marker warnings placed around all CHAs and SHAs, and that school children are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings, as appropriate.
10. The Committee noted the actions taken by the United Kingdom 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.