

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ANGOLA

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Austria, Canada, Norway, Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings 30 June -2 July 2020

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #22, #8)

1. Angola reported that in 2019, mined areas measuring 13,876,730 square metres were released, including 11,199,573 square metres cancelled, 754,616 square metres reduced, and 1,922,541 square metres cleared. In the process, Angola destroyed 1,943 anti-personnel mines, 96 anti-vehicle mines and 808 other items of explosive ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that progress made is below the estimated amount of areas projected by Angola in its updated work plan submitted in 2018. The Committee would welcome information from Angola on the challenges in meeting its projected milestones. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Angola had reported completion of its national non-technical survey.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Angola on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previously reported information and welcomed Angola providing disaggregated data in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Guide to Reporting (Action #22, Action #8).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

4. The Committee observed that Angola provided clarity on its remaining challenge (Action #18). Angola reported a total of 1,054 anti-personnel mined areas measuring 88,030,926 square metres remain to be addressed, including 981 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 84,792,985 square metres and 73 suspect hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 3,237,941 square metres (Action #22).
5. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Angola will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Angola will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee welcomes updated information on the result of these efforts.
6. The Committee noted the importance of Angola, in accordance with Commitments of the Oslo Action Plan, submitting to Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, further information on its efforts to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination (Action #18).

III. National plans for survey and clearance (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #19, #20, #26)

7. The Committee observed that Angola had a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place (Action #2, Action #19). The Committee noted that Angola reported having established a National Mine Action Strategy (2020-2025) which is aligned to the Oslo Action Plan. The Committee further noted that Angola reported that Convention implementation activities are integrated into national development plans (Action #1).

8. The Committee observed that in 2019 the Government of Angola allocated an annual financial commitment towards implementation of US \$15.7 million to State institutions; CNIDAH, CED, as well as infrastructure demining, verification, and clearance of contaminated roads. The Committee further noted that the government of Angola had committed US \$60 million towards the clearance of minefields in the Okavango conservation area in Kwando Kubango Province (Action #1).
9. The Committee recalled that in on 25 November 2018 Angola submitted an updated work plan for the implementation of Article 5 including a commitment to address annually 164 mined areas measuring 17,210,199 square metres. The Committee would welcome updated adjusted milestones based on new evidence, such as the results of survey efforts, including information on the number of mined areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established (Action #20).
10. The Committee noted that Angola indicated that it is, “committed to the alignment and integration of gender equality into the sector”. The Committee would welcome further information on how Angola ensures consideration for gender, age, disability and takes the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account in its efforts to implement its Article 5 commitments (Action #3).
11. The Committee noted that Angola reported that it has prioritised the provision of a sustainable national capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas that may be discovered following a future declaration of completion of its Article 5 obligations. The Committee welcomes further updates in this regard (Action #26).

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

12. The Committee noted that Angola had included reference to efforts taken to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance of roads. The Committee would welcome further information from Angola regarding its efforts to provide the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance and in particular its efforts to ensure that its National Mine Action Standards reflect the latest methodologies in line with the IMAS (Action #5).
13. The Committee noted that Angola has a national information management system managed by the Mine Action Centre and that the national database has been reconciled and previous backlog cleared. The Committee further noted that Angola had restructured its Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) data entry forms to reflect data disaggregation in line with IMAS land release terminology (Action #9).
14. The Committee noted that Angola had included reference to efforts taken to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations and welcomes further information from Angola in this regard (Action #27).

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

15. The Committee recalled that in granting Angola’s request, the States Parties requested Angola to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Angola on; the progress and results of national non-technical survey, progress on efforts to resolve and eliminate problems related to data discrepancies, efforts made to strengthen the implementation of the quality management system and operational capacities of the operations office, progress in identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and nontechnical survey, efforts to strengthen the involvement

and coordination of activities with the CED, as well as resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Angola to support implementation efforts, and the results of these efforts; including efforts to ensure that mine action is considered within national development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit Angola's resource mobilisation efforts.

16. The Committee further observed that on the 25 November 2018, Angola acted upon the decisions of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties by submitting an updated work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Action #28 - #32)

17. The Committee noted that Angola reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in line with Angola's national mine action strategy. The Committee noted that Angola's 2020 national mine action strategy includes MRE activities and includes the development of appropriate national sustainable MRE structures (Action #32).

18. The Committee would welcome further information on Angola's efforts to integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts (Action #28). The Committee would also welcome further information on Angola's efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) on the basis of a needs assessment to ensure these programmes are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account, (Action #29). The Committee would welcome further information on Angola's efforts to link mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data and its efforts to develop a national capacity to deliver these programmes (Action #30, #31).