

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION BY SUDAN

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. Sudan reported that in 2019, it addressed a total of 7,003,925 square metres, including 6,127,357 square metres reduced and 876,568 square metres cleared destroying in the process 1 anti-personnel mine, 12 anti-tank mines and 13,775 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that progress reported by Sudan is below the amount of area projected in its 2018 extension request to be addressed in 2019. The Committee would welcome information from Sudan on the challenges in meeting its projected milestones.
3. The Committee observed that information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2018 extension request. The Committee noted that Sudan had improved the quality of information by reporting in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and by using the Guide to Reporting (Action #22, #8).

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

4. The Committee observed that Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity on its remaining challenge (Action #18). Sudan reported a total of 95 mined areas measuring 13,279,704 square metres remain to be addressed in three States, Blue Nile, South Kordofan and West Kordofan. Including 52 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 2,402,260 square metres and 43 suspect hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 10,877,444 square metres (Action #22).
5. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Sudan will be further clarified following the baseline survey at which time Sudan will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee welcomes updated information on the result of these efforts.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #19, #20, #22, #26)

6. The Committee observed that Sudan had a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place (Action #2, #19). Sudan reported it would address a total of 11,628,202 square metres in 2020-21, 10,108,451 square metres in 2021-22, and 2,074,807 square metres in 2022-23 (Action #20).
7. The Committee noted that the work plan aims to address not one areas affected by anti-personnel mines but also areas affected by anti-tank mine sand other items of unexploded ordnance (Action #22). The Committee would welcome Sudan to continue to report on adjusted milestones on an annual basis in future reports, including information on the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed annually against updated milestones, including how priorities have been established to achieve completion as soon as possible (Action #22).
8. Sudan reported on the integration of mine action in national development plans, poverty reduction strategy and humanitarian response plans. The Committee welcomes the information provided by

Sudan on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans (Action #1).

9. Sudan reported that in 2019, the Sudan Mine Action Programme received US \$5,571,406 from donors either through United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) or the United Nations - African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur - Ordnance Disposal Office (UNAMID-ODO). Sudan also reported in 2019 the Government of Sudan allocated US \$2 million to the Sudan Mine Action Programme through the National Mine Action Centre, including staff salaries and operations costs. Sudan in its 2020 updated work plan projected a total of US 15.8 million in required funding for 2020, US \$16.2 million in 2021, US \$15.5 million in 2022, and US \$10.5 million in 2023 (Action #1).

10. Sudan reported on its efforts to ensure consideration for gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in the development of its work plans as well as in ongoing work to achieve completion of its obligations under Article 5. The Committee welcomes Sudan's efforts in this regard and welcomes further information on how Sudan ensures consideration for gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in the development of its work plans as well as in ongoing work to achieve completion of its obligations under Article 5 (Action #3).

11. Sudan reported on its efforts to make provision for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas following completion. The Committee welcomes updated information on Sudan's efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas that may be discovered following Sudan declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations (Action #26).

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

12. Sudan reported in detail on its efforts to update its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) in accordance with the IMAS. The Committee welcomes the update from Sudan and welcomes further information concerning the status of its NMAS and if its NMAS are up to date with the IMAS to ensure the efficient and expedient implementation of its mine action programme (Action #5).

13. Sudan reported on its efforts to ensure that an effective information management system is in place. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further updates from Sudan on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system (Action #9). The Committee recalled that Sudan in its 2018 extension request indicated the steps taken to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations (Action #27).

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

14. The Committee recalled that in granting Sudan's request, the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) requested Sudan to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Sudan regarding; progress in land release relative to the commitments made in Sudan's annual work plan, disaggregating outputs in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including consistent disaggregation between munitions destroyed; updates regarding mine survey assessments, related survey and deployment of clearance capacities in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, including the identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Sudan's work plan; Regular updates regarding changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation; updates regarding the review of Sudan's national mine action Strategy and National technical Standard and Guidelines, including a clear timeline for the development of these

processes and updates on 'data clean-up' efforts; updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts within the new Strategic plan, including resources made available by the Government of Sudan and external financing received to support implementation efforts and the effects of the funding level on the implementation of the work plan; and updates regarding the structure of Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

15. The Committee observed that Sudan had acted on the decisions of the 17MSP by submitting an updated workplan to the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

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

16. Sudan reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (Action #32).

17. Sudan reported that, "it has developed tailored messaging to engage a wide range of diverse groups and gender on mine action and to deliver these messages through appropriate channels and formats depending on the needs and priorities of these groups including community liaison, MRE messages, publications and workshops. By doing this, the programme's stakeholders will contribute towards a mine action sector responsive to gender and diversity as well as promoting gender equality and inclusion more generally in the society". The Committee noted Sudan's efforts to provide context specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk and are tailored to the threat encountered by the populations and 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 from Sudan on its efforts to integrate mine risk education and reduction programmes into wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, its efforts to link these programmes and messages directly to available casualty data, and its efforts to build a national capacity to deliver these programmes (Action #28, #30, #31).