

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

**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. The United Kingdom reported that the fifth phase of clearance operations began in October 2016 and continued through to 2019 resulting in the following areas being cleared; at Fox Bay: FB2, FB3, FB4, FB5, FB6, FB7; at Port Howard: PH3; at Murrell Peninsula: MP1, MP2, MP3, MP5; at Stanley Area (1): SA004, SA005, SA018; at Stanley Area (2): SA011. The United Kingdom also reported that MP7 (Beatrice Cove) was cancelled.
2. The United Kingdom in its updated work plan submitted in 2020 also reported that a total of 10,347,213 square metres had been addressed since the submission of its 2018 extension request.
3. The Committee observed that information provided by the United Kingdom on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided in its 2018 extension request. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom could improve 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 the United Kingdom had provided a high degree of clarity on its remaining challenge (Action #18). The United Kingdom reported a remaining challenge of 4 mined areas measuring 226,958 square metres remain to be addressed (Action #22).

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

5. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom had a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place (Action #2, #19). The United Kingdom, in its 2020 updated work plan, reported that the remaining mined areas would be cleared by 30 December 2020. The Committee noted that the demining programme stood down on 26 March 2020 due to temporary lockdown measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee welcomes the information to the effect that the United Kingdom is estimating that it will complete implementation of its Article 5 obligations more than 3 years ahead of schedule (Action #20).
6. The United Kingdom reported a total investment in demining of £44 million for the period through to completion. In this regard, the Committee noted the contribution of the United Kingdom to its demining programme and encourages the United Kingdom to continue to provide updates on the allocation of State resources in support of its work plan (Action #1).
7. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom had reported in detail on its efforts in, “integrating and mainstreaming gender consideration and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account in mine action programming”. (Action #3).

8. The Committee would welcome further information on the United Kingdom's efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas that may be discovered following the United Kingdom declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations (Action #26).

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

9. The United Kingdom reported in its updated work plan that the United Kingdom follows the principles set out in the IMAS. The Committee encourages the United Kingdom to provide further information concerning the status of its National Mine Action Standards and if National Mine Action Standards are up to date with IMAS to ensure the efficient and expedient implementation of its mine action programme (Action #5).
10. The Committee would welcome further information from the United Kingdom on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system (Action #9). The Committee noted that the United Kingdom had included reference to efforts taken to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations and welcomes further information from the United Kingdom in this regard (Action #27).

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

11. The Committee recalled that in granting the United Kingdom's request, the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties, (17MSP) requested the United Kingdom to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by the United Kingdom regarding; progress in land release activities relative to the commitments made in the United Kingdom's work plan, and updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts to ensure continual support for implementation efforts and avoid delays in implementation.
12. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom had acted on the decisions of 17MSP by submitting an updated workplan to the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

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

13. The Committee noted in its 2018 extension request, the United Kingdom reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including, "an ongoing programme of risk education for military and civilian personnel on the island to ensure that mine awareness remains a key part of normal health and safety considerations" (Action #32).
14. The Committee would welcome further information on The United Kingdom'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 the United Kingdom'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 The United Kingdom'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).