

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ireland, Zambia)**

**Intersessional Meetings
19-20 May 2016**

PART 1: Introduction

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee met for the first time in December 2015 and has met monthly ever since. On 21 December the Committee wrote to States Parties that indicated they would need to submit a request for extension by 31 March, in accordance with the process established by the States Parties, reminding these States of the process for requesting an extension, encouraging them to seek the support of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) as well as recalling the cooperative nature of the process established to develop an analysis of States Parties' requests for extension.
2. On 11 January, the Committee wrote to those State Parties which were due to submit updated work plans and additional information on the basis of the decision on their request for extension granted at previous Meetings of the States Parties.
3. On 2 February, the Committee communicated with States Parties with Article 5 obligations to recall the 30 April deadline for providing updated information on implementation in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan, and stressing the importance of respecting the 30 April deadline, given the short timeframe between the deadline and the intersessional meetings of 19-20 May. The Committee also informed these States Parties on how it would proceed in preparing preliminary observations for the intersessional meetings and encouraged the use of the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.
4. The Committee's cooperative engagement with States Parties continued in February 2016 in Geneva when, on the margins of the United Nations annual meeting of mine action directors, the Committee invited States Parties to meet with the Committee to discuss progress and challenges in implementing Article 5 of the Convention, as well as to indicate to participating States how the Committee anticipates carrying out its mandate in the current year.
5. During the United Nations annual meeting of mine action directors, the Committee also had the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with representatives of four States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5.
6. On 21 March, the Committee wrote to those States Parties that had indicated they would fulfil their mine clearance obligations no later than by their deadline in 2017 to welcome this news and to encourage them to actively participate during the intersessional meetings of the Convention in May 2016.

7. On 25 April, the Committee reached out to expert organisations to request any input they may have on requests for extension submitted to date, in accordance with the process established by the States Parties for the analysis of requests.
8. In preparing preliminary observations, the Committee was challenged by the short time frame between the intersessional meeting on 19-20 May and the deadline for submission of the States Parties' transparency reports on 30 April.

II. Methodology

9. In line with its purpose of intensifying efforts to ensure the full implementation of Article 5, and in an effort to continue the approach established in 2015, the Committee gave particular attention to the following aspects of the Maputo Action Plan:
 - a. The Maputo Action Plan calls for increased **clarity** regarding remaining implementation challenges, with this clarity encouraged through Article 7 reports, Article 5 extension requests and information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests.
 - b. The Maputo Action Plan, by calling for increased clarity, supports improvements in the **measurability** of Article 5 implementation over time, with improvements in the quality of information permitting greater understanding and comparability.
 - c. The Maputo Action Plan emphasises **efficient and expedient implementation** with commitments to apply the most relevant land release standards and methodologies.
10. Given the subject matter covered in Actions #8 to #11, the Committee proceeded in preparing preliminary observations on the following matters:
 - Clarity regarding remaining challenges
 - Progress in implementation
 - National plans for clearance and survey
 - The application of land release standards, policies and methodologies
 - Actions related to commitments in extension requests and decisions on requests
 - Mine risk reduction efforts
11. The Committee is mandated to “review relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties, including in the context of Article 7 obligations and on efforts undertaken under Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance.” In preparing its observations, the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties in 2016 in the context of Article 7 reporting, information contained in requests for extended deadlines that were submitted in 2016, and any additional information provided in writing by States Parties on Article 5 implementation.
12. In reviewing information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation, the Committee noted different degrees of clarity regarding the location of all areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. As a result, the Committee has used terminology in its preliminary observations in the following manner:
 - a. “High degree of clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area.

- b. "Clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions / provinces / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.
- c. "Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

III. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation

13. At the close of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, 32 States Parties had reported having an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention. Of these, until 6 May the following had provided information:
- a. 14 States Parties submitted updated information in 2016 on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas in accordance with obligations under Article 5: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Cyprus, Ecuador, Mauritania, Peru, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.
 - b. Three States Parties – Serbia, Sudan and Yemen– provided information pursuant to decisions taken on their request for extended deadlines.
 - c. Two States Parties – Niger and Peru– submitted requests for extended mine clearance deadlines, with these requests containing information on Article 5 implementation.
14. Of the 32 States Parties which as of close of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties had reported that they were still in the process of implementing Article 5 of the Convention, as of 9 May 2016, 18 did not submit updated information to the Convention's depository on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas: Angola, Argentina, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Niger, Oman, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Yemen.

PART 2: Preliminary Observations

I. OBSERVATIONS OF A GENERAL NATURE

15. The Committee observed that, of the 32 States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, few have submitted reports by the deadline of 30 April. The Committee further observed that, despite efforts to encourage its use, States have not been employing the new Guide to Reporting and its sample annex, two documents which are of considerable assistance in providing clarity concerning progress and status in implementing Article 5 commitments.
16. The Committee observed that some States Parties face challenges in implementing their Article 5 commitments due to a number of factors including large areas pending to be addressed, funding challenges and security concerns.
17. The Committee observed that any additional information provided by States Parties by 15 August 2016 with respect to the Committee's observations would assist the Committee in preparing its observations and recommendations to be submitted to the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY AFGHANISTAN

Progress in implementation

18. Afghanistan reported that in 2015 it released 107 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing a total of 16,064,979 square metres, including 13,443,616 square metres cleared, 666,671 square metres reduced and 1,954,692 square metres cancelled, and destroying 6,955 anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that the information provided by Afghanistan was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
19. The Committee observed that the information provided by Afghanistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2012 extension request. In this regard, the Committee observed that between 30 June 2012 and 31 December 2015, the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been reduced from 3,847 to 2,578 and the amount of area reduced from 289,400,000 square meters to 239,464,868 square meters. The Committee also observed that between 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015, while the number of areas to be addressed had decreased, the total area remaining to be addressed had increased from 221,944,806 square metres to 239,464,868 square metres.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

20. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to seven regions of the country. This list includes the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Afghanistan reported that, as of the end of 2015, 2,247 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 152,501,233 square meters and 331 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines measuring 86,963,635 square meters, totalling 2,578 mined areas measuring 239,464,868 square meters remain to be addressed.

21. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had reported that, as anti-tank (AT) mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) also pose extreme risk to the civilian population and block development activities, in addition to clearance of areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines, the clearance of AT and ERW contaminated areas are also part of the extension request work plan. Afghanistan also reported areas contaminated by abandoned improvised explosive devices (IED) as anti-personnel hazard areas and therefore counted these as part of the remaining Article 5 challenge.

National plans for clearance and survey

22. Afghanistan provided a detailed plan in its 2012 extension request leading towards completion, with this clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that, while progress had greatly surpassed that expected in the plan contained in the extension request, in 2013 and 2014, progress in 2015 did not reach the target set in the work plan.

23. Afghanistan indicated in its extension request that it would annually review its work plan and make any necessary adjustment. The Committee observed that since the submission of its extension request Afghanistan has reported adjustments to the work plan every year, including in 2016. The Committee further observed that Afghanistan had provided an updated projection of the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed in each region and in each year between 2016 and 2022. Afghanistan also reported on other changes that had been made to its work plan on the basis of new information obtained, as well as shortfalls in funding during the second and third years – 2014 and 2015 – of its extension. Afghanistan reported the number of areas and amount of area it estimates to be released annually including a total of 668 mined areas measuring 51.886 square kilometres in 2016; 356 mined areas measuring 47.377 square kilometres in 2017; 136 mined areas measuring 17.575 square kilometres in 2018; 400 mined areas measuring 38.979 square kilometres in 2019; 152 mined areas measuring 16.845 square kilometres in 2020; 219 mined areas measuring 26.648 square kilometres in 2021; and, 358 mined areas measuring 22.37 square kilometres.

24. The Committee observed that, while Afghanistan anticipates releasing a considerable amount of area and number of areas annually leading to its deadline in 2022, the number of areas (2,289) and amount of area (221.68 square kilometres) fall short of the number of areas (2,578) and amount of area (239.46 square kilometres) that Afghanistan has reported as remaining to be addressed. The Committee also observed that, to allow for optimal comparability of data, Afghanistan could ensure that the amount of area is always reported in the same measurement unit.

25. In its extension request, Afghanistan reported that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, it faced challenges associated with anti-vehicle mines and other ERW. In this regard, the Committee observed that Afghanistan's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Afghanistan.

Efficient and expedient implementation

26. Afghanistan reported that the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS 05.01 Land Release) were amended and updated in July 2013 right after the release of the United Nations International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.11 for land release, and that these AMAS were reviewed by the AMAS Review Board and approved for application in MAPA. Subsequently, the SOPs of all demining organisations have been revised based on the requirements of these new

AMAS and approved by UNMACA. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had attached the relevant AMAS chapter to their report.

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

27. The Committee recalled that the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) had requested that Afghanistan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Afghanistan was acting upon the decisions of the 12MSP which requested Afghanistan to regularly inform the States Parties of non-technical survey and “village by village search” efforts, revisions to its work plan and reasons for these revisions. In providing this information, Afghanistan reported that ongoing conflict remains a major challenge threatening successful fulfilment of Article 5 commitments. In particular, Afghanistan reported that the use of pressure-plate IED by insurgent forces is of concern and represents the greatest challenge facing the mine action sector in Afghanistan today.
28. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had reported in 2016 in such a way that there was a high degree of comparability with respect to annual milestones for progress provided in its extension request.

Mine risk reduction

29. Afghanistan reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. This has included ensuring that appropriate marking of hazardous areas is carried out, as well as providing mine risk education (MRE) to people living in the mine- and other ERW- impacted communities, returnees and internally displaced people. This is done through diverse methods including visits to communities, the media, UNHCR transit centres, mini-circus for children and cooperation with the Ministry of Education to include MRE in school curriculums. Afghanistan reported that during 2015 an obligation was added to the Afghan Mine Action Standards (AMAS) and the clearance project proposals that when an international partner clear hazards in a community, they are responsible to mark remaining hazards in the community.
30. Afghanistan provided information on the monthly average number of casualties, indicating that between 2001 and 2013 the number of casualties fell significantly from a monthly average of 175 to 36, but that since 2013 the number of casualties had risen again to a monthly average of 102 during 2015, the majority of which were the result of IED incidents.

III. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ALGERIA

Progress in implementation

31. Algeria reported that, in 2015, approximately 12'830.28 square kilometres were returned to the community destroying a total of 55,083 anti-personnel mines in Tebessa, Souk Ahras, Tlemcen and Nâama. In total since 2004, Algeria has released 62 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing approximately 93'882.7 square kilometres and destroying 695,488 anti-personnel mines.
32. The Committee, while noting that Algeria had reported the release of a significant amount of area, observed that the information provided by it on progress in implementation did not permit comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2011 extension request. The Committee observed in particular that progress in implementation relative to the projected

milestones in its extension request would be welcome. While Algeria has provided the size of the areas addressed and the quantity of anti-personnel mines destroyed since the entry into force of the Convention, the Committee observed that it is unclear how many and which areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have actually been addressed.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

33. The Committee observed that Algeria had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing the number of remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to seven regions of the country. This list includes 15 communities with the length of the area in which anti-personnel mines are suspected measuring 396 kilometres: 261 kilometres in Nâama, 75 kilometres in El Tarf, 20 kilometres in Souk Ahras and 40 kilometres in Guelma.

National plans for clearance and survey

34. In its 2011 extension request, Algeria provided a comprehensive work plan leading towards completion by its 1 April 2017 deadline. This plan provides a list of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines broken down by region, length, estimated size, and geographic location. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that it is nearing completion of its national mine action programme and provided updated projection of locations to be released in the remaining months leading up to its 1 April 2017 deadline in the following areas:

- Nâama (western border): clearance is nearing completion in the three last communities affected by mines.
- El Tarf (eastern border): eight communities still need to be cleared. These areas require an additional treatment, located in swampy areas (wet region classified on the Ramsar list). The work in El Tarf should be finished in September 2015.
- Souk Ahras (eastern border): clearance is nearing completion in the last affected community of Oued Kabarit. Clearance will be completed one year prior to the milestone in the work plan of the extension.
- Guelma (eastern border): work is planned in three communities which require an additional treatment. Work began in August 2015, two months before the milestone foreseen in the national work plan.

Efficient and expedient implementation

35. In its 2011 extension request, Algeria provided a detailed description of its land release methods, undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Algeria reported that although manual clearance is a slow process, it has been chosen over mechanical clearance because it is more reliable and because of the mountainous and rocky nature of the areas to be addressed. Algeria further reported that the manual and technical clearance method chosen by Algeria is the most pertinent according to Algeria's experience.

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

36. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) noted that the annual milestones of progress to be achieved, which Algeria included in its extension request, would greatly assist States Parties in assessing progress during the extension period and that reporting relative to these milestones would be of benefit. The Committee recalled that the 11MSP had noted that Algeria has made it clear that it faces difficulties in giving precise dates

for completion of work in three specific minefields with specific characteristics, including fragmentation mines set in granite rocks and mined areas that are covered with sand.

37. Algeria reported that all mines in granite rock were identified, removed and destroyed, and the areas handed over to the relevant civil authority. Algeria further reported that the areas covered with sand are located in the commune of Ain Safra (on a line of four kilometres) and that these areas are currently being cleared. Algeria further reported that it is able to assure that the pace of efforts under Article 5 is consistent with the forecasts in the work plan for the period 2012-2017.

Mine risk reduction

38. Algeria reported that no mine/ERW accidents were recorded in 2015 and that the last victim was recorded on 28 April 2011.

IV. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Progress in implementation

39. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2015 26.6 square kilometres of “mine suspect area” were reduced, including 10.03 square kilometres of “mine risk area” having been reduced (8.39 square kilometres as a result of technical survey and 1.64 square kilometres through clearance operations), 16.57 square kilometres having been declared as “area without defined risk” following “general and systematic survey operations”. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that it had found and destroyed 1,654 anti-personnel mines in 2015.
40. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina could more clearly present implementation progress if Bosnia and Herzegovina used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e., land that is cancelled, reduced or cleared). The Committee observed that increased clarity from Bosnia and Herzegovina on this matter would be welcome.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

41. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 19,227 “minefield records” totalling 300 square meters with the number of “minefield records” disaggregated according to 10 administrative levels and two entities/districts remain to be addressed. Bosnia and Herzegovina further indicated that 1,149.9 square kilometres of suspected hazardous area remains to be addressed disaggregated according to 13 administrative levels. The Committee observed that this is an increase of the total number of “minefield records” reported at the end of 2014. The Committee would welcome clarity on the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
42. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina could significantly increase clarity by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey”. The Committee further observed that greater clarity could result in using terminology that is consistent with the IMAS, such as “suspected hazardous area” and “confirmed hazardous area”.

43. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

National plans for clearance and survey

44. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a summary of its plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline. That plan indicated how much area, aggregated to the national level, would be released each year according to various activities. The Committee observed that the pace of implementation warranted a revision to Bosnia and Herzegovina's plans for clearance and survey. The Committee further observed that information would be welcome on updated projections of areas and area to be released for the remaining years leading to Bosnia and Herzegovina's 1 March 2019 deadline.

Efficient and expedient implementation

45. In its 2008 extension request, Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee observed that since Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its request the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. In this context, the Committee observed that information on any amendments Bosnia and Herzegovina may have made to its own standards to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

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

46. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested that Bosnia and Herzegovina provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP noted that, while the plan presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina's request was workable and ambitious, its success was contingent upon increased performance in technical survey, an ongoing, although decreasing, high level of donor funding and the sustained and increasing availability of funds provided by local governments. The Committee observed that increased clarity on how these factors may be affecting implementation would be welcome.
47. The Committee also recalled that the 9MSP noted the importance of clarity on the part of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding which areas of what size and at what locations remain to be addressed in each administrative area. The Committee observed that increased clarity on remaining mined areas in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

Mine risk reduction

48. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine risk education programmes and the creation and distribution of mine situation maps. In addition, in 2015 5.38 square kilometres of additional area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines were marked with 906 individual signs. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that in 2015 there was one fatal accident.

V. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CAMBODIA

Progress in implementation

49. Cambodia reported that in 2015 five demining operators combined cleared 185,304,981 square meters and destroyed 16,472 anti-personnel mines. Cambodia reported that from 1992 to December 2015 a total of 1.4 billion square kilometres have been addressed destroying in the process a total of 961,770 anti-personnel mines.
50. The Committee observed that progress in implementation could be significantly clarified if Cambodia presented information in such a way that it could be compared with information previously provided by Cambodia. The Committee observed, in particular, that providing geographically specific information concerning progress could allow for greater measurability and comparison with the information contained in Cambodia's "Report on the Results of the Baseline Survey in 124 Districts".
51. The Committee observed that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Cambodia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

52. Cambodia reported that there are areas located in the North-Western Province of Cambodia that are known and suspected to contain mines. Cambodia reiterated that the 2009-2014 Baseline Survey revealed a total of 11,967 polygons with an area of 1,071,383,958 square meters suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Cambodia indicated that this will be updated after the new National Mine Action Strategy has been finalised in 2016. The Committee observed that it would welcome updated information on the remaining challenge.
53. The Committee observed that Cambodia could significantly increase clarity by providing in accordance with Action # 8 of the Maputo Action Plan information on "the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey". The Committee further observed that greater clarity could result in using terminology that is consistent with the IMAS, such as "suspected hazardous area" and "confirmed hazardous areas".

National plans for clearance and survey

54. Cambodia provided a detailed four-year work plan in its 2009 extension request as well as expected clearance productivity rates and costs over the extension period leading towards its 1 January 2020 deadline. The Committee observed that it was not possible to determine whether Cambodia was on track to implement Article 5 in a manner consistent with this work plan. The Committee further observed that, given that the Baseline Survey resulted in significantly more area having been identified than anticipated, an updated work plan would be welcome with updated projections of areas and area to be released leading to Cambodia's 1 January 2020 deadline.

55. Cambodia indicated that the National Mine Action Strategy developed in 2009 will undergo an external review in early 2016 and that, given changes affecting the mine action sector, CMAA will develop a new National Mine Action Strategy 2017-2025. The Committee would welcome additional information on the development of the National Mine Action Strategy.

Efficient and expedient implementation

56. In its 2009 extension request, Cambodia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the IMAS. The Committee observed that, since Cambodia submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee further recalled that, given the sizeable increase in area identified by the Baseline Survey, any additional information on methods used to reduce or cancel areas would be welcome.

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

57. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had requested Cambodia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Cambodia had acted upon the commitment made in its extension request to carry out the Baseline Survey and report the findings to the States Parties. The Committee further observed that it would welcome, as per the decision on Cambodia's request, if Cambodia could provide, based on the results of the Baseline Survey, a single national updated work plan, schedule and budget leading towards its extended deadline of 1 January 2020, taking into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators.

Mine risk reduction

58. Cambodia has reported in detail on the various actors involved and the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. Cambodia reported that in 2015 111 people were reported killed or injured by mines or other explosive remnants of war.

VI. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CHAD

Progress in implementation

59. Chad reported that in 2015 39 anti-personnel mines were destroyed and demining activities were carried out in Zouar, Zouarké, Ogui (Tibesti), Sahr and Kyabé (Moyen Chari). Chad further reported that 263,003 square metres were demined and that a technical survey was conducted in Zoui, Ogui, Bardai and Aouzou. Chad also informed that demining activities carried out by the Centre National de Déminage (CND) and the Mines Advisory Group through the EU PADEMIN project led to four areas covering 317,998 square metres, being freed of mines and handed over to the population: axis Sahr Kiabe, Ogui, Wadi Mangnar and Zoui in the Tibesti region. Chad further reported that non-technical surveys carried out in Tibesti and in southern Chad identified 14 new hazardous areas. The Committee, in recalling the detailed list of 113 remaining mined areas contained in Chad's May 2014 provisional plan of action 2014-2019, observed that Chad could significantly clarify progress in implementation by reporting in a manner that permitted comparability with the information in this plan.

60. The Committee observed that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Chad used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

61. The Committee recalled that Chad, in its provisional plan of action 2014-2019, indicated that, as of May 2014, 113 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 104,542,233 square metres remained to be addressed. Chad reported that, as of the end of May 2015, 109 areas were known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee observed that Chad’s 2015 report, while indicating that some demining had taken place in 2015, did not provide updated clarity on Chad’s remaining challenge relative to the information contained in its plan, and in particular did not indicate precisely which areas had been cleared.
62. The Committee also recalled that Chad’s provisional plan of action 2014-2019 indicated that not all of Chad’s territory has been covered in the plan, with the northern part of the Tibesti region remaining to be surveyed. In this regard, Chad reported that in 2015 14 new hazardous areas had been identified as a result of non-technical survey activities in the Tibesti and in the south of the country. The Committee observed that the provision of a detailed list of the newly discovered areas with information on their respective geographical locations and sizes would be welcome, as well as information on further efforts by Chad to survey and identify mined areas.
63. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, Chad’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

National plans for clearance and survey

64. Further to the decisions of the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP), in May 2014 Chad provided a provisional plan leading towards completion by its 1 January 2020 deadline, with this plan summarising which activities (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance) would take place in each region during various periods of time leading to 1 December 2019, and at what cost. The Committee observed that an updated work plan, including detailed geographical milestones to be achieved in the years leading to Chad’s deadline in 1 January 2020, would be welcome.
65. The Committee recalled that the risk factors mentioned in Chad’s provisional plan, including political stability and security, remain factors that may affect the implementation of Chad’s plan for completion. The Committee further observed that survey results will affect implementation of Chad’s plan.
66. The Committee observed that success in implementing Chad’s provisional plan would require that Chad mobilises significantly more external resources than in the recent past. Chad reported that in 2015 an external contribution from the European Union was received in the context of the PADEMIN project, which includes both demining and victim assistance elements. In this context, the Committee observed that information on Chad’s efforts to mobilise other resources and the results of these efforts would be welcome.

Efficient and expedient implementation

67. In its 2013 extension request, Chad provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee observed that since Chad submitted its request the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee observed that Chad may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.
68. The Committee observed that the application of the most relevant land release standards would be particularly important in Chad given the large amount of area that remains to be addressed. In this context, the Committee observed that information on any amendments Chad may have made to its own standards to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

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

69. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested Chad to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that, in addition to this decision, the 13MSP requested Chad to inform the States Parties, by the end of 2015, of the results of the mid-term evaluation of its strategy, including, if necessary, providing an updated strategy that takes into account new information.
70. The Committee further recalled that the 13MSP requested that Chad inform States Parties on an annual basis of issues concerning clarity on the remaining Article 5 challenge, efforts to diversify funding, efforts to address inadequacies in information management, and of weather conditions which had previously impeded the timely implementation of the Convention by Chad and which continued to affect the fulfilment of Chad's obligations. The Committee observed that additional information on these actions and factors would be welcome.

Mine risk reduction

71. In 2015, Chad reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. The Committee observed that Chad had provided information on the beneficiaries of these actions disaggregated according to gender.
72. Chad reported that in 2015 two victims had been recorded. The Committee observed that the information on casualties provided by Chad was not gender and age disaggregated.

VII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CHILE

Progress in implementation

73. Chile reported that in 2015 it released 17 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing a total of 1,891,413 square meters and destroying 84,867 anti-personnel mines and 42,279 anti-tank mines. The Committee observed that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

74. The Committee observed that the information provided by Chile on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2011 extension request. In this regard, the Committee observed that between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2015 the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been reduced from 151 to 78 and the amount of area reduced from 17,289,098 square meters to 9,174,736 square meters.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

75. The Committee observed that Chile had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to five regions of the country. This list included the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines in each region and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Chile reported that, as of the end of 2015, 60 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 5,819,963 square metres and 10 areas suspected to contain mines totalling 3,354,773 square meters remained to be addressed.

National plans for clearance and survey

76. The Committee observed that Chile provided updated milestones for the period of 2016-2020 with 18 areas totalling 2,185,365 square meters to be released in 2016; 14 areas totalling 2,748,492 square meters to be released in 2017; 12 areas totalling 954,176 square meters to be released in 2018; 15 areas totalling 2,883,267 square meters to be released in 2019; and, one area measuring 19,683 square meters to be released in 2020. The Committee observed that the modified estimated progress for the period of 2016-2020 would see Chile meeting its Article 5 obligations by its 1 March 2020 deadline.

Efficient and expedient implementation

77. Chile reported that the process of humanitarian demining in Chile takes as its guide the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) as well as the Chilean Army's Humanitarian Demining Manual. Chile reported that the safety of demining operations, for the deminers as well as for the population, is the main focus for Chile during demining operations.

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

78. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had requested Chile to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Chile was acting upon the decisions of the 11MSP by providing updates relative to the timelines presented in its request.

Mine risk reduction

79. Chile reported that mined areas are located in unpopulated border areas far from population centres and with difficult access, and that there is no regular transit of civilians through these areas. Chile reported that all mined areas are fenced and marked and that information is distributed to tourist, national agencies and private enterprises concerning the locations of mined areas. Chile also reported that its mine risk education campaign is carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in schools within the communes of Arica, Iquique, Antofagasta, Copiapo and Puerto Natales to reinforce campaigns carried out in the past.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CYPRUS

Progress in implementation

80. Cyprus reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Cyprus, in 2012, to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control – namely that Cyprus had indicated that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question – has not changed and that Cyprus was not aware of any progress in implementation that had occurred. In total, between entry into force of the Convention and its original 1 July 2013 deadline, Cyprus has addressed all 20 mined areas under its effective control.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

81. Cyprus reported that since July 2013 there are no anti-personnel mines laid in the minefields of the National Guard on territory under the effective control of Cyprus. Cyprus reported that the only known mined areas are located in the part of its territory outside of its effective control and that at least 20 mined areas are yet to be cleared of anti-personnel mines, with one of these areas located within the buffer zone, in the vicinity of the village Deryneia.

82. Cyprus reported that it has taken concrete steps to ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in minefields and submitted to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus information on 28 known mined areas and that, according to information released by UNFICYP, those 28 minefields were subject to non-technical survey by the United Nations Mine Action Service, and according to its assessment only three of them require further technical survey.

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

83. The Committee recalled the ongoing importance, as noted by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods. The Committee further observed that Cyprus had acted upon its commitment.

IX. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ECUADOR

Progress in implementation

84. Ecuador reported that in 2015 it has addressed a total of 17 areas clearing a total of 66,414 square metres and cancelling a total of 16,177 square meters for a total area addressed of 82,591 square meters of areas. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Ecuador in 1999, Ecuador has addressed 177 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 493,831.38 square meters and destroying 10,856 anti-personnel mines.

85. The Committee observed that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further observed that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

86. The Committee observed that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, and including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), the types and quantity of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Ecuador reported that, as of the end of 2015, seven areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 130,132 square metres containing 4,687 anti-personnel mines remained to be addressed.

National plans for clearance and survey

87. Ecuador provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 October 2017 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, and by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that Ecuador had cleared or otherwise released more areas than had been forecast in its extension request. The Committee further observed that Ecuador has a plan leading to completion by its 1 October 2017 deadline, with 80,132 square meters to be addressed in 2016 and the remaining 50,000 square meters to be addressed in 2017.
88. Ecuador reported that one area known to contain anti-personnel mines that totals 43,500 square meters is located in territory handed over by Peru as “private property” of Ecuador as stipulated in the “Brasilia Presidential Act”. Ecuador further reported that demining operations in this area are subject to bilateral agreements between Ecuador and Peru concerning timeframes, budgets and the employment of the binational demining unit.

Efficient and expedient implementation

89. The Committee recalled that in its 2008 extension request Ecuador provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Manual on Technical Survey Procedure of Ecuador. Ecuador further reported on the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. The Committee observed that, since this time, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee observed that Ecuador may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan, that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee observed that information on amendments Ecuador may have made to its own standards to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

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

90. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Ecuador to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Ecuador was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request to proceed with implementation at a constant rate through the extension period.
91. The Committee recalled that Ecuador’s request also indicated that there would be a 100 per cent increase in financing and increases in demining capacity relative to what was the case prior

to the request having been made. The Committee observed that, while Ecuador's reporting did not specify changes to funding and demining capacity, Ecuador was proceeding in a manner that suggested that sufficient funding and capacity were in place.

Mine risk reduction

92. Ecuador has reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. Ecuador reported that the objectives of these efforts are not solely to prevent injury or death, promoting safe behaviour, but also to find solutions to risky behaviour in some affected communities. Ecuador reported that a second binational campaign on mine risk education was held in the border area of Santiago, Tiwinza, in the Province of Morona Santiago. Ecuador further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2015.

X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY MAURITANIA

Progress in implementation

93. Initially, in 2001, Mauritania reported 34 areas totalling 87,725,000 square metres. On the basis of additional information obtained by Mauritania, the number of areas requiring clearance was adjusted to 56 and the amount of area adjusted to 90,017,026 square metres.
94. Mauritania reported that in 2014 it addressed a total of 1,886,099 square metres of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, identifying and destroying in the process 46 anti-personnel mines, 10 anti-vehicle mines and four pieces of unexploded ordnance. In total, since Mauritania submitted its request for extension in 2010, it has cleared 62,954,375 square metres of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and otherwise released 3,978,391 square metres of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 66,932,766 square metres addressed. Since the entry into force of the Convention for Mauritania in 2001, it has addressed all 56 areas having cleared 67,111,766 square metres and otherwise addressed 22,905,260 square metres.
95. In 2015, Mauritania submitted a request for an extension of its Article 5 deadline until 1 January 2021, indicating that the sole circumstance which impeded its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control was that it suspected that fortifications and minefields along the border with Western Sahara may in some instances be located on Mauritanian territory.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

96. Mauritania reported that it has addressed all areas known to contain anti-personnel mines. Mauritania further reported that it suspects that mined areas, initially presumed to be within the territory of Western Sahara, may in fact be located in the territory of Mauritania. Mauritania indicated that this uncertainty stems from the fact that there are no natural borders and that border demarcation is unclear and sometimes non-existent. Mauritania further reported that the complexity of the political context in Western Sahara complicates the assessment of whether additional mined areas exist in Mauritania. The Committee observed that additional clarity on the locations of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines would be welcome.

National plans for clearance and survey

97. Mauritania provided information in its 2015 extension request on activities to be undertaken during the requested five year extension to address the suspicion of additional mined areas. Mauritania indicated that, amongst other things, this would include initiating a dialogue with all stakeholders to clarify the situation at the border, and maintaining a national capacity to carry out humanitarian demining efforts.

Efficient and expedient implementation

98. In its 2015 extension request, Mauritania provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards, which are in conformity with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) but adapted to the context in Mauritania.

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

99. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested Mauritania to provide updates with respect to commitments made in its extension request, including information on dialogues held with relevant stakeholders and progress in the acquisition of information on the exact location of its northern border and in the development of plans to address identified areas. The Committee observed that, in order to act upon the decisions of the 14MSP, updates relative to progress on commitments made by Mauritania would be welcome.

Mine risk reduction

100. Mauritania reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. These include mine risk education programmes Mauritania provided to schools and nomad communities, and messages disseminated through media. Mauritania further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2015.

XI. CONCLUSIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY NIGER

Progress in implementation

101. Niger reported that in 2015 17,000 square metres of area known to contain anti-personnel mines were cleared and that 750 mines were found and destroyed. The Committee observed that Niger submitted a request in 2016.

102. In its extension request submitted in 2016, Niger indicated that fifty percent of the original 39,304 square metres of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines have been cleared and 1,075 mines have been found and destroyed. Also in its 2016 request, Niger indicated that 93,042 square metres have been cleared. Also in the 2016 request, Niger indicated that more than 39,304 square metres have been cleared. The Committee observed that the information provided by Niger on progress in implementation should be clarified so as to give an accurate measure of the progress achieved by Niger.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

103. In its extension request submitted in 2016, Niger indicated that the remaining challenge amounts to two areas, one area known to contain anti-personnel mines in Madama of a size of 39,304 square metres, fifty percent of which has already been cleared, and an additional confirmed hazardous area containing anti-personnel mines and anti-tank mines of an estimated size of 196,253 square metres. The Committee observed that Niger provided information on the location and size of the remaining mined areas. The Committee further observed that clarity regarding Niger's remaining challenge was dependent on the clarification of the information provided by Niger on progress in implementation.

National plans for clearance and survey

104. Niger provided information in its 2016 extension request on activities to be undertaken during the requested five year extension to clear the remaining mined areas and reinforce the capacity of the *Commission nationale pour la collecte et le contrôle des armes illicites* (CNCCAI) to follow up and evaluate these activities. The Committee observed that the plan presented by Niger could increase in clarity if annual milestones of areas released during the period of the extension were included.

Efficient and expedient implementation

105. Niger reported that demining activities will be conducted in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Niger further reported that it was planning to draft national mine action standards. The Committee observed that Niger may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan, that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee observed that an update on the development of national mine action standards by Niger would be welcome.

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

106. The Committee recalled that the 14MSP had requested Niger to provide in its 2016 extension request an updated work plan containing an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request. The 14MSP decisions also requested that Niger provide information on the location and size of the remaining areas and information on areas already released disaggregated by method of release. The Committee observed that the plan provided by Niger in its 2016 extension request lacks annual projections of areas released during the period of the extension, and the size of areas remaining to be addressed needs to be clarified.

107. The Committee observed that Niger had acted upon the 14MSP decisions which requested Niger to provide information on external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Niger to support implementation. In providing this information Niger reported that external resources to fund the full implementation of its plan were still being sought, and that without the support of partners, Niger could not guarantee the clearance of Madama.

Mine risk reduction

108. Niger reported that the two remaining mined areas are perimeter-marked and fenced and guarded by military sentry.

XII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY PERU

Progress in implementation

109. Peru reported that in 2015 it addressed a total of 76,335.62 square meters and destroyed 897 anti-personnel mines. The Committee observed that Peru had submitted a request in 2016. The Committee observed that the information provided by Peru on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. In this regard, the Committee observed that information on progress made relative to the remaining challenge that was identified in its extension request would be welcome. The Committee observed that information on the amount and number of areas addressed and number of anti-personnel mines located and destroyed in 2015 would be welcome.

110. The Committee further observed that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Chad used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

111. The Committee observed that Peru had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to four sectors of the country. This list included the number of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Peru reported that, as of the end of 2015, 147 areas suspected and known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 436,494 square meters remained to be addressed.

National plans for clearance and survey

112. The Committee observed that Peru had submitted a request for extension for considerations at the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties. In its request Peru reported the number of areas it would aim to address during the extension period.

Efficient and expedient implementation

113. In its 2008 extension request Peru provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the IMAS and the Manual of Procedures for Humanitarian Demining of the Republic of Peru developed in 2004, which was based on the IMAS.

114. The Committee observed that since Peru submitted its request the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee observed that Peru may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan, that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee observed that information on any amendments Peru may have made to its own standards to ensure efficient

and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

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

115. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Peru to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee also recalled that the 9MSP noted a commitment on the part of Peru to proceed to implement Article 5 at a more constant rate through the extension period. The Committee observed that Peru was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request to proceed with implementation of its plan presented within its extension request.

116. The Committee further observed that Peru had the intention of fulfilling this plan by its deadline, but has submitted a new request based on new information acquired on additional mined areas.

Mine risk reduction

117. Peru reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. Peru reported that a second binational campaign on mine risk education was held in the border area of Santiago, Tiwinza, in the Province of Morona Santiago, Ecuador with the participation of CONTRAMINAS and military demining authorities of Ecuador in which training was offered to the local authorities and the population in general concerning the risk of mines.

XIII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SERBIA

Progress in implementation

118. Serbia reported that in 2015 it cleared 413,915 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and otherwise released 765,085 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 1,179,000 square meters addressed culminating in the destruction of 14 anti-personnel mines and one piece of unexploded ordnance.

119. The Committee observed that the information provided by Serbia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further observed that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

120. The Committee observed that Serbia had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to nine localities. This table includes the number of areas, the amount of area in each locality and the status of the area (i.e. all areas are considered "suspected"). Serbia reported that, as of February 2016, 13 suspected hazardous areas totalling 1,936,080 square metres remained to be addressed. This included area in Bujanovac that had been reclassified from confirmed hazardous area to suspected hazardous area to ensure that the area is addressed by the most cost effective means.

National plans for clearance and survey

121. Serbia provided a plan in its 2013 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected where, when, how, by whom and at what cost. In 2016, Serbia reported that it had adjusted its plan and provided an update on milestones to be covered during the extension period including addressing a total of 810,105 square metres in 2016; 601,699 square meters in 2017; 524,276 square meters in 2018; and, carrying out “additional check-up and verification” in 2019. Serbia reported that the dynamics of implementation of the clearance projects might be affected by provision of funds. Serbia further reported that if additional funds are provided, the work plan could be implemented in a shorter period. The Committee observed that Serbia had a plan to achieve completion well before its extended deadline.

Efficient and expedient implementation

122. In its 2013 extension request Serbia provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In its 2015 report Serbia provided a further description of the approach it is taking to land release, which appears to take into account the emphasis that the IMAS place on the need for evidence to define areas as either confirmed or suspected hazardous areas.

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

123. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested Serbia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP had requested that Serbia keep the States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia’s national financial contribution to implementation, efforts to mobilise external resources, and the results of these efforts. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested Serbia to provide by 1 March 2016 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension.

Mine risk reduction

124. Serbia has reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine risk education programmes. Serbia reported that, in accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations people are evacuated and traffic is suspended, and that this is coordinated with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies.

XIV. CONCLUSIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SUDAN

Progress in implementation

125. Sudan reported that from the period of March 2013 to February 2016 it has addressed 162 hazards clearing a total of 3,718,921 square meters, cancelled 2,106,513 square meters and reduced 2,400,581 square meter for a total of 8,226,015 square meters addressed locating and destroying in the process 1,301 anti-personnel mines and 50,953 UXO. Sudan reported that there is a difference of around 1 million square metres when deducting the total recorded land released from the total of contamination reported in March 2013 plus the newly located areas due to an error in data base, and that Sudan is dealing with the data to fix the error.

126. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with previous recommendations endorsed by the States Parties. The Committee also concluded that clarifications would be welcome with respect to the discrepancy highlighted by Sudan on the status of programmes for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

127. The Committee concluded that Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e. “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area. Sudan also reported that during this period a total of 42 areas measuring 846,887 square meters were located and registered in the database. Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2015, 63 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,799,054 square meters and 49 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 18’115’237 square metres remained to be addressed.

128. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Sudan’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

National plans for clearance and survey

129. Sudan provided a detailed plan in its 2013 extension request covering the period 2013-2015 and projections of the number of areas and amount of area to be released each year from 2013 to 2019, leading towards completion by Sudan’s 1 April 2019 deadline. Sudan, in its updated work plan report, provided a revised number of areas per state that it intends to address during the period 2016 to 2019 including a total of 43 areas measuring 7,324,853 square meters in 2016; 35 areas measuring 6,385,382 square meters in 2017; 24 areas measuring 5,085,217 square meters in 2018; and 10 areas measuring 2,118,840 square meters in 2019 (to 1 April 2019). The Committee concluded that the information provided by Sudan on its national plans for clearance and survey allowed for comparability of information from year to year and for clarity regarding the implementation relative to Sudan’s plan.

Efficient and expedient implementation

130. In its 2013 extension request Sudan provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. In its 2015 report Sudan provided additional details on its land release process. The Committee observed that, as Sudan reported that it was reviewing its national technical standards, Sudan may, in the near future, be able to provide additional information on the application of the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, pursuant to Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan.

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

131. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Sudan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request.
132. The Committee concluded that Sudan had reported in detail on each of these matters. The Committee further concluded that, with respect to information provided on survey efforts and on the security situation, Sudan reported that Blue Nile and south Kordofan has been mostly inaccessible due to insecurity over the past three years. The Committee also concluded that, with respect to information on financing, Sudan reported that over the past period the Sudan Mine Action Programme has suffered due to the lack of required resources, insecurity and absence of UN lead, and that this issue of lack of UN lead to support Mine Action is, however, resolved with the return of UNMAS to Sudan in April 2015. Sudan further reported that in early 2016 the programme, through UNMAS, has secured 2.4 million USD to re-commence clearance operations, and in addition the government of Sudan contributed 1.4 million USD in 2014 and 2015 and an additional 2 million USD in 2016.

Mine risk reduction

133. Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through the marking of hazardous areas. Sudan reported that from March 2013 until February 2016 a number of mine risk education (MRE) services had been provided to communities at risk. The total number of individuals who received MRE messages are 634,607 persons in 10 states (195,132 boys; 146,237 girls; 137,809 men; 154,481 women; 948 non-specified).
134. Sudan further reported that from March 2013 to February 2016 122 mine/ERW victims were recorded. The Committee observed that this data was disaggregated by age and gender.

XV. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THAILAND

Progress in implementation

135. Thailand reported that in 2015 it addressed 52 areas in 13 districts in nine provinces with a total of 2,047,662 square meters having been cleared, 12,251,858 square meters having been reduced and 27,423,538 square meters having been cancelled, destroying in the process 4,333 anti-personnel mines and 4,225 other explosive items. Thailand reported that this effort led to the completion of Mae Hong Son, Phayao and Nah Provinces in the northern region.
136. The Committee observed the importance of Thailand continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

137. The Committee observed that Thailand had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of each area and information on the geographic location of each area. Thailand reported that, as of 31 December 2015, 314 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 450,736,524 square metres remained to be addressed, with mined areas located in 33 districts in 14 of Thailand's provinces. Thailand

further reported that all confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) have been re-categorised as suspected hazardous areas (SHA) as a result of the ongoing resurvey process to determine contaminated areas as precisely as possible.

138. The Committee observed that Thailand could significantly increase clarity by providing, in accordance with Action # 8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.” The Committee further observed that greater clarity could result in using terminology that is consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), such as “suspected hazardous area” and “confirmed hazardous areas”.

National plans for clearance and survey

139. Thailand provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 November 2018 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results were expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that the remaining challenge as of 2015 is significantly larger than the expected remaining challenge estimated for Thailand in its request by 2015. In this regard, the Committee further observed that it would be welcome if Thailand could provide an updated work plan indicating what geographical and quantified results it expects to accomplish by its extended deadline of 1 November 2018.

140. Thailand reported that the remaining suspected hazardous area is divided into two categories. The areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mine in normal condition (total: 259 areas, 355,416,328 square metres) are to be released by normal procedures, with high priority being given to areas in proximity to civilian activities and areas designated by the Government for development. Thailand reported that it aims to release all areas under this category within the extended deadline by 2018 and is working with Norwegian People’s Aid on carrying out a resurvey based on Evidence-Based Survey (EBS) Technique. Thailand reported that if this method is successful, it will be applied to other areas in Thailand.

141. Thailand reported that the second category are areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mine with border problems (total: 88 areas, 95,320,196 square metres). Thailand reported that the clearance of areas under the second category faces challenges due to the ambiguity of border lines between Thailand and Myanmar, Thailand and Lao PDR, and Thailand and Cambodia. Thailand reported that clearance can only start after a bilateral agreement has been reached between Thailand and the respective country.

142. Thailand reported projections of how many areas and how much area of category 1 SHAs will be addressed in which provinces leading to its deadline. In 2016, it is projected that 17 areas totalling 32,798,755 square metres will be addressed in seven provinces, reducing the number of mine-contaminated provinces from 14 to seven. In 2017, 118 areas totalling 160,700,611 square metres, and in 2018, 124 areas totalling 161,746,247 square metres are projected to be addressed. Thailand reported that, concerning Category 2 areas, during this period it estimates that it will address a total of 88 areas measuring 95,320,196 square meters.

143. The Committee observed that Thailand could increase clarity concerning its remaining challenge by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or

control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey”.

Efficient and expedient implementation

144. In its 2008 extension request Thailand provided a description of its land release methods including its Locating Minefield Procedure (LMP), which was intended to complement clearance. The Committee observed that, since Thailand submitted its request, the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee observed that Thailand may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan, that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee observed that information on amendments Bosnia and Herzegovina may have made to its own standards to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.
145. Thailand reported that in 2015 it began to apply a new land release method called “Evidence-Based Survey” (EBS) in which only the area with strong evidence of mine contamination will be categorised as confirmed hazardous area. The EBS method will allow identifying a more realistic estimation of mine-contaminated land and thus enable the clearance plan to be more time-bound in this regard. Thailand reported that in 2016 the Thailand Mine Action Centre will launch a pioneering project to involve more local stakeholders in mine clearance and in the land release process in their own provinces.

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

146. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Thailand to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP noted that significant progress was expected, through Thailand’s Locating Minefields Procedure, to overcome impeding circumstances such as the manner in which the Landmine Impact Survey in Thailand had hindered implementation efforts. In this regard, the Committee observed that Thailand had reported that a significant amount of suspected hazardous area had been released since Thailand’s extension request was considered. The Committee observed that Thailand is carrying out a number of measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations.
147. The Committee also recalled the commitments made by Thailand in its 2008 extension request related to enhancing and strengthening close cooperation at the regional level and building national capacity. In this regard, the Committee observed that information pursuant to these commitments would be welcome.

Mine risk reduction

148. Thailand reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. Thailand reported that all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have been marked and warning signs in both Thai and English languages are prominently displayed, with warning signs replaced and maintained on a regular basis. Thailand indicated that the number of mine victims has continued to decrease and that in 2015 there were five victims of mines (two killed and three injured).

XVI. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY UKRAINE

149. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties the Ukraine indicated that in the east of the country there are areas that are known or presumed to be mined by anti-personnel mines but that these areas are currently not under its effective control.

XVII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

Progress in implementation

150. The United Kingdom reported that the fourth phase of the demining operation on the Falkland Islands commenced in January 2015; that, due to challenging weather conditions, the project paused at the end of April; and that by that time nine mined areas had been either cancelled or cleared. The United Kingdom further reported that the project would recommence in September. The United Kingdom reported that the fourth phase of demining operations ran until March 2016 and cleared a total of 25 suspected hazardous areas including Phase 4a: 24, 26, 27, 35, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60 and 86. Phase 4b: 22, 33, 49, 50A, 50B, 51, 52, 53, 56, 59, 63A, 63B, 66, 83 and 110 as well as the non-minefield area behind the Stanley Common fence to the west of the Eliza Cove road. The United Kingdom indicated that during operations an unexpectedly large number and pattern of mines that did not match the mine records was found within an area that was fenced and marked.

151. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom had provided a high degree of clarity with respect to areas and area cleared and that the information provided by the United Kingdom on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee observed the importance of the United Kingdom providing information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

152. The United Kingdom reported that once the fourth phase of completion is finished, no more than 83 suspected hazardous areas will remain. The Committee would welcome updated information from the United Kingdom on the remaining challenge.

National plans for clearance and survey

153. The United Kingdom indicated that discussions on future phases of demining operations on the Falkland Islands continued throughout 2015. The Committee also observed that, as the United Kingdom had not provided plans to implement Article 5 beyond 2015, further updates by the United Kingdom on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcome.

154. The United Kingdom indicated that in 2015 they carried out a scoping project including limited technical survey of York Bay to help them understand better the resources needed to demine this environmentally sensitive area in the future.

155. The United Kingdom reported that there are several challenges to demining in the Falklands including weather, environmental impact, incomplete minefield records and a tough financial climate which may become increasingly significant.

Efficient and expedient implementation

156. The United Kingdom reported that it applies the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in its demining operations, as well as local environmental and planning regulations.

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

157. 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 complemented its annual Article 7 submission in 2016 by providing an update on progress made.

Mine risk reduction

158. The United Kingdom reported that there are effective fences and minefield marker warnings in place around all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, that school children are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings as appropriate. The United Kingdom reported that the small humanitarian and socio-economic impact of the mined areas in the Falkland Islands decreases as the mined areas closest to population centres are cleared, and that most of the remaining mined areas are in extremely remote locations and pose negligible risk to civilians.

XVIII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY YEMEN

Progress in implementation

159. Yemen reported that during 2015, because of the war and events ongoing in the country, Yemen has an emergency plan to remove and clear explosive remnants of war (ERW) and that this plan has been implemented in three governorates (Sana'a, Amran and Hajjah). The first objectives for operations included areas around schools and in cities contaminated by ERW. Operations in the 162 targeted schools resulted in the clearance of 652 ERW were collected including unexploded ordnance and cluster bombs.

160. The Committee observed that the current situation in Yemen may impede ongoing operations in the implementation of Article 5 given other important priorities, and welcomed updated information from Yemen on progress in implementation as it becomes available.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

161. Yemen reported that 471 suspected hazardous areas totalling 322,470,981 square metres remain to be surveyed in 12 governorates and that 107 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 8,143,256 square metres remain to be addressed. Yemen reported that, nonetheless, previously clear and cleared land has been either suspected or physically confirmed as being contaminated or re-contaminated, and that the remaining Article 5 challenge is not completely known as survey remains to be carried out in a number of areas. Yemen further indicated that it remains committed to providing yearly updates on progress made on survey and the results of this survey, and to indicating at the earliest possible moment the true extent of contamination and the realistic resources and timeline to mitigate the threats. The Committee noted the challenges faced by Yemen and welcomes updated information as it becomes available.

162. Yemen reported that, according to the new challenges posed by ongoing conflicts in 13 governorates, Yemen expects that five governorates could be contaminated by mines (Aden, Lahijj, Taiz, Abyan and Mareeb), five governorates could be contaminated by cluster bombs (Mareeb, Sada'a, Amran, Hajjah and Al Hodaydah) and 10 governorates could be contaminated by ERW.

National plans for clearance and survey

163. Yemen reported that a methodology has been developed to conduct remote mapping by collating open-source information into a 'heat map' of the country giving a clearer picture of the threats. This map may be overlaid with population density statistics which will indicate impact as well. A high incidence of threats combined with a high-population density will indicate higher priorities for mine action interventions.

164. Yemen provided a work plan for non-technical and technical survey which indicates that the remaining suspected hazardous area of 322,470,981 square metres in 12 governorates will be surveyed between March 2016 and March 2017, with further technical survey expected between March 2017 and March 2019. Yemen reported that clearance will be implemented in the same governorates targeted for non-technical survey.

Efficient and expedient implementation

165. Yemen reported that the method used to identify areas containing anti-personnel mines and the reasons for suspecting the presence of anti-personnel mines in other areas is that of releasing land through technical survey by applying manual clearance and mine detection dogs, and working according to international and Yemeni standards. The technical survey is the first essential step to identify and verify the location of mine fields, to draw contamination maps and conduct clearance in small mine fields, in addition to the survey teams making large area reduction and area cancellation.

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

166. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested Yemen to submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisations, and a detailed budget. The Committee observed that Yemen was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request of keeping the States Parties apprised of progress made and by submitting an updated work plan.

167. The Committee observed that Yemen provided a budget for the remaining period covered by the extension request which includes the contribution from the Government of Yemen, resources available from other sources and resources to be mobilised from donor countries.

Mine risk reduction

168. Yemen reported that it implements a marking system to ensure the safety of civilians from mined areas through permanent and temporary marking according to international standards, and that it distributes the list of all mine-affected areas to local authorities in the relevant communities.

169. Yemen indicated that the most common methods of information transmission are posters, signs, brochures and school presentations, and indicated that during the period from January to December 2015 and with support from UNICEF, Yemen has implemented mine risk education in six governorates (Sana'a, Aden, Al Hodaydah, Hajjah, Taiz and Al Baydha) and the total number of the targeted people is 349,947 located in 2,037 locations of which 196,909 were men and 153,038 women. Yemen indicated that in 2015 no records on mine/ERW accidents and the number of victims were collected.

XIX. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ZIMBABWE

Progress in implementation

170. Zimbabwe reported that in 2015 it cleared 147,310 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, reduced a total of 2'149 square meters and cancelled 656,541 square meters for a total of 806,000 square meters, destroying a total of 119 anti-personnel mines, finalising operations in the Burma Valley Minefield in Manicaland Province.

171. The Committee observed the importance of Zimbabwe continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

172. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of provinces, the number of remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of contamination in the provinces, and information on the geographic location of each area. Zimbabwe reported that, as of the end of 2015, eight areas in Zimbabwe were known to contain mines totalling 73,117,991 square meters. The Committee observed that in its previous report Zimbabwe had subdivided the areas into hundreds of areas.

173. Zimbabwe indicated that since its last report further survey and exact mapping has resulted in an increase in the remaining area known to contain mines in the Sango Border to Crooks Corner Minefield.

National plans for clearance and survey

174. Zimbabwe provided an updated work plan in 2015, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe's plan includes information concerning the milestones to be met over the course of its extension period, including addressing a total of 1,554,000 square meters in 2015; 2,063,400 square meters in 2016; and 2,134,000 square meters in 2017.

Efficient and expedient implementation

175. In its 2013 extension request, Zimbabwe did not provide a detailed description of its land release methods, indicating that, as suspected hazardous areas cleared and released were known minefields, the method used to release land in these areas was manual demining through full clearance. Zimbabwe also indicated in its request that the Zimbabwe National Mine Action Standards (ZNMAS 01) were approved as a legal document with effect from 1 July 2013 and that all mine action organisations have started operation based on these standards.

176. Zimbabwe reported that two new international demining organisations, MAG and APOPO, have been engaged, which should increase the rate of clearance, and that Zimbabwe is working on finalising the MoUs which should be signed before the end of 2015. Zimbabwe further reported that increased funding to NPA and HALO Trust is foreseen by one of their donors, which should further increase the rate of clearance.

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

177. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested Zimbabwe to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested that, given that survey activities are scheduled to be completed by September 2014 -which should result in an accurate understanding of the remaining implementation challenge- Zimbabwe submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request, and that it keep the States Parties regularly apprised of progress in meeting the milestones in Zimbabwe's request. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had submitted an updated plan to the States Parties in 2015.

178. Zimbabwe reported that, with respect to the commitments in its request granted by the Third Review Conference, in 2015 Zimbabwe enhanced its mine action information management capacity by sending two officers for basic training in information management, and efforts were now at an advanced stage on the establishment of a functional IMSMA. With respect to the need to consider applying the full range of available means to efficiently and expediently release areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, Zimbabwe is in the process of accrediting two other demining organisations to share the burden with the existing three organisations.

179. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request by submitting an updated work plan within its Article 7 report and by keeping the States Parties informed of progress in implementation of the commitments it has made in its extension request.

180. The Committee observed that updated information concerning the commitments of Zimbabwe related to the relocation of the mine action centre out of military installations as well as the development of a national strategic plan was provided by Zimbabwe. Concerning the relocation of ZIMAC out of military cantonment, Zimbabwe reported that ZIMAC will be relocated out of the cantonment area once the Government avails funds for purchasing or renting accommodation. Zimbabwe further indicated that funds required for this are being sourced by the Ministry of Defence and that the Government was committed to the relocation of ZIMAC offices. Zimbabwe further reported that it is in the process of developing its National Strategic Plan to be presented in complement to the clearance plan after completion of resurvey report from demining partners.

Mine risk reduction

181. Zimbabwe reported that all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have been marked and warning signs in both respective areal languages and English are prominently displayed. Zimbabwe has reported that efforts are being made to tailor messages according to community circumstances (e.g., according to the main economic, cultural and recreational activities carried out in any particular locality), but that lack of funding hampers replacement of warning signs and maintenance on a regular basis to reduce the danger of locals straying into minefields.

182. In 2015, Zimbabwe reported that eight casualties occurred (one killed, seven injured). Four men and four boys were reported as victims; three of the casualties which resulted in injuries occurred during demining operations. In addition 35 cattle were killed due to mines/ERW in 2015.