

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY MOZAMBIQUE

1. The Committee recalled that on 17 September 2015 Mozambique declared that it had completed the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control. The Committee further recalled that in declaring completion, Mozambique indicated that in the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Mozambique will act in accordance with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) on a Rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed.
2. In declaring completion, Mozambique indicated that 9 suspected mined areas remained on their records submerged under water on account of the major flooding of 2000, diverting the Limpopo River. Mozambique reported that there may be very little probability that mines would be detected in those submerged areas. Since declaring completion, Mozambique reported that five of these areas became accessible in 2016 and that technical survey resulted in their subsequent cancellation.
3. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in 2018 that in 2017 four areas measuring 1,888 square metres remain inaccessible. The Committee further recalled that Mozambique reported that these mined areas are continuously monitored and will be addressed once the water level recedes and access is gained for their clearance. Mozambique further reported its commitment to continue including these areas in its transparency report and keep the States Parties informed on the status.
4. Mozambique reported that for 2018 four areas measuring 1,888 square metres remain inaccessible. The Committee welcomed Mozambique's update on inaccessible areas. The Committee recalled that in its conclusions presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in 2018 that the Committee noted that Mozambique could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenge and the progress made by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.
5. The Committee observed that Mozambique did not report on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that information on this matter would be welcome.