

**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 SUDAN**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Sudan reported that in 2018 it addressed 7 mined areas measuring 1,000,465 square metres, including 21,017 square metres reduced and 979,448 square metres cleared, destroying 31 anti-personnel mines, 13 antitank mines and 709,197 items of unexploded ordnance. The Committee noted that progress in 2018 did not reach projection outputs for the period 2017-2018 as stated in Sudan's work plan.
2. The Committee noted that the information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2018 extension request. The Committee welcomed Sudan employing the Guide to Reporting.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee observed that Sudan had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Sudan reported a remaining challenge at the end of 2018 of 94 mined areas measuring 18,919,048 square metres including 52 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) totalling 2,402,260 square metres and 42 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) totalling 16,516,788 square metres. The Committee noted that the report indicates that no mine areas remain in Kassala.
4. The Committee noted that while Sudan reported having addressed 7 mined areas, the number of areas to be addressed had remained at 94 in 2018. The Committee further noted that while 1,000,465 square metres was addressed in 2018 Sudan reported an increase in the remaining Article 5 challenge from 2017 from 18,733,895 square metres to 18,919,048 square metres. The Committee would welcome additional clarity on figures contained in the report.
5. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Sudan will be further clarified at which time Sudan will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee observed that it would welcome Sudan continuing to provide regular updates on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

**III. National plans for clearance and survey**

6. The Committee noted Sudan had provided updated milestones for the period 2018-2019 projecting to address 54 SHA and 3 CHA, releasing 10.2 square kilometres through non-technical survey and 13.2 square kilometres released through technical survey and clearance. Sudan further reported milestones for the period, 2019-2020, addressing 16 SHA and 2 CHA, releasing 5 square kilometres through non-technical survey and 5.4 square kilometres through technical survey and clearance. The Committee further noted that with improvements in access further updates on national plans and survey would be welcome.

**IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

7. The Committee noted that Sudan had provided detailed notes on its land release process. The Committee further noted that Sudan is currently undertaking a review of its national technical standard guidelines. The Committee would welcome information on this review.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) had requested that Sudan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Sudan was acting upon the decisions of the 17MSP by providing updates on each of these matters.
9. The Committee observed that during 2018 Eastern States of Sudan were accessible for demining operations. The Committee noted that while access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was still limited, Sudan had reported improvement in access for verification and clearance of roads, and opening for humanitarian assistance and community movement.
10. The Committee noted Sudan had provided an update on 'data clean-up' efforts. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the 17MSP that Sudan reported that it had aimed to complete data clean-up during 2017, the Committee welcomes further information on a completion date for this work.

#### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

11. Sudan reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through the marking of hazardous areas. The Committee noted that Sudan had been providing Mine Risk Education to local population groups in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, West Kordofan and Dafur States reaching 247,211 beneficiaries in 2018 and a total of 3,868,521 beneficiaries since 2002.
12. The Committee noted the actions taken by Sudan in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.