

**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 UKRAINE

I. Progress in implementation

1. Ukraine reported the identification of 14 mined areas with reference points, including 7 areas in 4 districts of Donetsk Region, 2 in Bakhmut district, 1 in Lyman district, 3 in Sloviansk district, and 1 in Volnovakha district. As well as 7 areas in 2 districts of Lugansk Region, one mined area in Popasna district and 6 mined areas reported in Stanytsia-Luhanska district.
2. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties (17MSP) in which it highlighted the mined areas identified in Volnovakha district, Lyman district and in Sloviansk district. The Committee welcomes further information from Ukraine on the progress of implementing mine clearance activities in these mined areas.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Ukraine on progress in implementation had not allowed for comparability with previous information provided by Ukraine. The Committee would welcome further updates from Ukraine on efforts to address identified mined areas. The Committee also observed that Ukraine could increase clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting.

ii. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee observed that Ukraine had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee observed that Ukraine in its updated work plan submitted on 6 May 2019, indicating 188 high priority areas and 181 mined areas in Donetsk and Luhansk.

iii. National plans for clearance and survey

6. The Committee observed that Ukraine in its updated work plan submitted on 6 May 2019, including a detailed humanitarian demining plan. In attachments to the plan Ukraine indicated that in 2019 it would undertake NTS on 188 of high priority territories in Donetsk and Luhansk. The Committee further noted that Ukraine indicated that it would undertake technical survey and clearance operations on 181 mined areas. The Committee would welcome further updates from Ukraine on the outcomes of survey and clearance activities and the impact on its remaining challenge.

iv. Efficient and expedient implementation

6. The Committee recalled that the 17MSP had noted that, "Ukraine was in the process of adopting National Mine Action Legislation, which will aim to create the legal ground for the development of the mine action programme in Ukraine. In this regard, a swift adoption of the National Mine Action Legislation could facilitate the provision of assistance on the part of those in a position to do so and would demonstrate national ownership" The Committee observed that Ukraine adopted National Mine Action legislation in December 2018.

7. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented to the 17MSP in which the Committee indicated that Ukraine 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, continue to be applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee would welcome additional information on these matters.
8. The Committee recalled that the 17MSP had noted the efforts put forward by Ukraine in the drafting of National Mine Action Standards, based on International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)". The Committee would welcome further information from Ukraine on the progress of drafting National Mine Action Standards.

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

9. The Committee recalled that the 17MSP had requested that Ukraine provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. On 6 May 2019, Ukraine acted upon the decisions of the 17MSP by submitting an updated work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention. The Committee welcomes the information contained in the work plan.

vi. Mine risk reduction

10. Ukraine reported that in the territory of Donetsk and Lugansk where mines are identified. Mined Areas are marked with special signs and that the local population is informed about these areas and measures to address them. The Committee would welcome further information from Ukraine regarding the design of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive mine risk education activities, that are coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.