

**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 THE UNITED KINGDOM

I. Progress in implementation

1. The United Kingdom reported that the fifth Phase of demining / land release operations began in 2016 and continued through 2017 and 2018. The United Kingdom reported the following areas had been cleared; at Goose Green: GG3, at Port Fitzroy: PF, Stanley Area (4): SA067, SA068, SA076, SA077, SA080, SA080A, SA081B, SA105, SA115, Stanley Area (2): SA101, Port Howard: PH1, PH2, PH5, PH6, Fox Bay: FB1, FB8E, FB9N, FB9S, FB10, FB11, Stanley Area (3): SA091B, SA116, 619 anti-personnel landmines in the process. The United Kingdom further noted that technical survey was completed in MP6 (Don Carlos Bay).
2. The Committee in its conclusions to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties (17MSP) indicated that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if the United Kingdom used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating areas cancelled by non-technical survey, reduced by technical survey and areas cleared. The Committee further observed that the United Kingdom could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. In its conclusions presented to the 17MSP the Committee indicated that the United Kingdom reported an estimated area of 5,557,380 square metres remaining to be addressed, with the size of other SHAs to be determined. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom could considerably increase the clarity concerning the remaining challenge by providing updates relative to the detailed list of the confirmed and suspected hazardous areas given in Annex A and B of its 2018 request.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

4. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented to the 17MSP in which it noted that a work plan indicating all remaining areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines was annexed to the United Kingdom's 2018 extension request. The Committee further recalled that the remaining challenge would be addressed in two phases: Phase 5a, (November 2016 - March 2018) and Phase 5b (April 2018 – March 2020), with all remaining areas within Phase 5b except for mined areas located at Yorke Bay for which funding will be sought once the extent of the cost of clearance is known and clearance ensured within the extended deadline. The Committee further noted that the United Kingdom projected to address a remaining 18 areas by technical survey in Phase 5a. The Committee further noted that in Phase 5b, the United Kingdom aims to address 42 mined areas in 3 clustered geographical areas. Cluster 3: 2 mined areas measuring 2,570 square metres; Cluster 2: 19 mined areas measuring 390,680 square metres; Cluster 4: 10 mined areas with an area yet to be determined;, and Cluster 5: 6 mined areas measuring 604,680 square metres with an additional 5 mined areas with a size yet to be determined. The Committee notes that the United Kingdom expects to deal with all remaining areas within Phase 5b except for the area

located at Yorke Bay for which funding will be sought once the extent of the cost of clearance is known. The Committee would welcome further information from the United Kingdom relative to its progress against milestones given in the work plan.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

5. The United Kingdom reported that the project uses a combination of non-technical survey, technical survey, manual and mechanical clearance and Battle Area Clearance, with applicable safety standards in line with IMAS and environmental standards agreed in coordination with the Environmental Planning department.

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

6. The Committee recalled that the 17MSP had requested the United Kingdom to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. In particular the Meeting requested that the United Kingdom provide a) the results of the technical survey of Yorke Bay and its effect on the work plan; and (b) Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts to ensure continual support for implementation efforts and avoid delays in implementation. The Committee would welcome an update on this matter.
7. The Committee also recalled that the Meeting requested that the United Kingdom submit updated work plans by 30 April 2020 and 30 April 2022 for the remaining period covered by the extension period Progress in land release activities relative to the commitments made in the United Kingdom's work plan, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS.

VI. Mine risk reduction

8. The United Kingdom reported no change in Mine risk reduction activities for the reporting period. The Committee noted that no change in mine risk reduction had been reported since 2007. The Committee observed that since the period of 2007 further updates on mine risk reduction efforts in relation to Maputo Action Plan #10 would be welcome.