

**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 ZIMBABWE

I. Progress in implementation

1. Zimbabwe reported that in 2018, a total of 9,452,120 square metres was released; destroying in the process 22,013 anti-personnel mines. Zimbabwe further indicated that during clearance operations and additional 295,665 square meters was discovered in all provinces. The Committee observed that this progress surpassed the target estimated in Zimbabwe's work plan provided in their extension request.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation did allow for comparability with that previously provided. The Committee noted the importance of Zimbabwe reporting progress in implementation using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS. The Committee welcomed Zimbabwe employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Zimbabwe reported that 7 mined areas totalling 52,637,535 square meters remain to be addressed. The Committee noted a minor discrepancy in Zimbabwe's report in which Form D, page 2 indicates Zimbabwe having addressed 6,218,692 square metres in 2017, and 9,452,120 square metres in 2018 for a total of 15,670,812 square metres compared to a reported accumulative area addressed of 13,493,754 square metres as indicated in the Zimbabwe's work plan (page 13). The Committee would welcome additional clarity on figures contained in the report.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

4. Zimbabwe provided an updated work plan in its 2018 Article 7 report leading towards completion by its 31 December 2025 deadline. Zimbabwe provided an updated summary of annual areas to be addressed including 8,233,488 square metres in 2019; 8,284,817 square metres in 2020; 8,134,817 square metres in 2021; 8,262,511 square metres in 2022; 8,299,518 square metres in 2023; 6,854,253 square metres in 2024; and 4,568,131 square metres in 2025.
5. Zimbabwe reported that the Vice-President had launched the National Mine Action Strategic Plan on 9 March 2018, for the period of the extension request (2017-2025).

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

6. Zimbabwe reported that it had drafted and approved its National Strategic Plan, for the period of the extension request (2017-2025). Zimbabwe reported applying the full range of available means to efficiently and expediently release areas containing anti-personnel mines including piloting mechanical clearance and the use of animal detection systems.

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

7. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in the 2017 decision by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties on its extension request. The Committee further recalled that in the 16MSP noted that the convention would benefit from Zimbabwe submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2019, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had complied with the commitments contained therein submitting an updated work plan as annex to its Article 7 Report.
8. The Committee recalled that in the decision of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, States Parties requested Zimbabwe to provide an update on the relocation of the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre out of military cantonments. Zimbabwe reported that the Government had approved the move of ZIMAC in July 2018. Zimbabwe reported that the Government is looking for appropriate office accommodation which will be accessible to all mine action stakeholders.

VI. Mine risk reduction

9. Zimbabwe reported that areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines are marked with warning signs in both local languages and English. Zimbabwe reported that funding constraints the renewal and maintenance of the warning signs and markings. Zimbabwe highlighted the delivery of MRE during the National Mine Clearance Units Mine Awareness Music Gala which has brought a reduction in risk taking behaviour by the locals of up to ±4,000 people per event. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe reported sex and age disaggregated data on MRE beneficiaries by organisation and region. The Committee further noted that cattle continue to stray into the minefields where there is good grazing land and that this presents a significant impact on the population.