## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Afghanistan

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Afghanistan reported that in 2017 it addressed 355 mined areas releasing 30,526,213 square metres with 1,729,047 square metres cancelled, 948,213 square metres reduced and 27,848,953 square metres cleared, destroying 14,624 anti-personnel mines, 286 anti-tank mines, 42,820 items of unexploded ordnance and 19 cluster munitions.
- 2. The Committee concluded that the information provided allowed for comparability with that provided in Afghanistan's 2012 extension request and welcomed Afghanistan employing the Guide to Reporting in reporting on progress in implementation.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 3. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Afghanistan reported 2,130 mined areas totalling 224,668,487 square metres remaining to be addressed, including 1,833 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) totalling 127,064,652 square metres and 297 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHAs) measuring 97,603,835 square metres.
- 4. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Afghanistan will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Afghanistan will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.
- 5. The Committee noted that in addition to anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and other explosive remnants of war also pose extreme risks to the civilian population and to the implementation of development activities. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Afghanistan's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Afghanistan. The Committee noted the importance of Afghanistan continuing to disaggregate the challenge of anti-personnel mine contamination.

### III. National plans for clearance and survey

- 6. Afghanistan provided a detailed plan in its 2012 extension request, with it clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee noted that progress in 2017 did not reach projection outputs for clearance and survey. The Committee noted that Afghanistan had reported an additional 92.7 square kilometres of mined areas identified through non-technical survey.
- 7. The Committee noted that Afghanistan provided an updated projection of outputs for clearance and survey in each of the seven administrative regions contaminated with anti-personnel mines from 2018 to 2022, with an overall goal for Afghanistan to address 1,866 confirmed and suspect hazardous areas measuring 200,533,936 square metres: 63,944,350 square metres to be addressed in 2018, 36,618,050 square metres to be addressed in 2019, 45,294,509 square

- metres to be addressed in 2020, 30,090,847 square metres to be addressed in 2021, and 24,586,180 square metres to be addressed in 2022.
- 8. The Committee noted that, while Afghanistan anticipates releasing a considerable amount of area and number of areas annually leading to its deadline in 2022, the number of areas (1,866) and amount of area (200,533,936 square metres), falls short of the number of areas (2,130) and amount of area, (224,668,487 square metres) that Afghanistan has reported as remaining to be addressed. In this regard the Committee concluded that Afghanistan's commitment to review the work plan on a continuous basis was essential and encouraged Afghanistan to regularly inform the States Parties of changes to the work plan, including on the impact of new hazards and resurvey on current capacities, annual clearance and survey plans.

### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

9. Afghanistan reported that the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards on Land Release were amended and updated in July 2013. The Committee noted that Afghanistan had attached the relevant AMAS chapter to their Article 7 report.

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

- 10. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan was acting upon the decisions of the 12MSP by providing updates relative to annual milestones for progress as contained in its extension request.
- 11. The Committee noted that Afghanistan's Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) was not conducted in 2017 due to a lack of funds. Afghanistan reported that MEIFCS remains to be implemented in 110 remaining districts. The Committee welcomes further information from Afghanistan on its efforts to implement the survey.

### VI. Mine risk reduction

- 12. Afghanistan reported in detail 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 this included marking of hazardous areas, as well as providing mine risk education (MRE) with a specific focus on returnees, scrap metal collectors, aid workers and internally displaced people.
- 13. The Committee noted that MRE activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, 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.

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Angola

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Angola reported provisional results of non-technical survey conducted in 18 provinces for the period June 2017 to April 2018, including 999 CHAs measuring 89,303,516 square metres and 221 SHAs measuring 58,268,040 square metres.
- 2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Angola on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that previously provided in its extension request presented to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP). The Committee concluded that it was essential that Angola report its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Angola could provide considerably more clarity regarding its progress in implementation by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 3. The Committee concluded that Angola had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee noted that Angola is in the process of updating its database which includes incorporating information from its public entities including the National Demining Institute (INAD) and Executive Demining Commission (CED).
- 4. The Committee recalled that Angola in its request for extension granted at the 16MSP, reported a remaining challenge consisting of 1,246 CHAs measuring 149,518,827 square meters and 219 SHAs measuring 71,890,852 square meters.
- 5. The Committee concluded that cleaning up the database is an absolute priority for Angola as this will provide clarity and hence more credibility to the mine action programme. With database updates in process and survey activities ongoing, Angola's remaining challenge needs to be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee further concluded that Angola would strongly benefit from using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS when present implementation progress.

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

6. The Committee concluded that the information reported by Angola concerning the results of non-technical survey differs greatly from the information provided in Angola's extension request. The Committee noted that Angola had indicated in its request that non-technical survey was completed in Moxico and Uige while the Article 7 report submitted by Angola indicated that these surveys are ongoing. The Committee would welcome information on the reason for these variations. The Committee further noted that the survey activities in Luanda Norte and Luanda Sul indicated in Angola's request for extension have commenced.

7. The Committee recalled that the 16MSP had requested Angola to submit to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request.

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. In its 2017 extension request, Angola reported that the methodologies employed are in compliance with IMAS and that all NGOs employ the same standards. The Committee recalled that the 16MSP had encouraged Angola to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Angola fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Committee would welcome further information from Angola regarding this matter.

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

The Committee recalled that the 16MSP had also requested Angola to provide updates with respect to a variety of additional commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee would welcome updates with respect to these commitments and milestones.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Angola reported that it had not implemented many mine risk education activities due to lack of funding. The Committee noted that it would welcome further information on Angola's Mine Risk Education strategy and updates on resource mobilisation efforts in support of these actions. The Committee would also welcome further information from Angola 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.

## Conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

### Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Argentina

# Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

- 14. In 2010, Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded its ability in 2010 to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Argentina had indicated that it did not have effective control over the areas in question.
- 15. The Committee recalled the ongoing importance, as noted by the Second Review Conference, of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods. The Committee concluded that Argentina had acted upon its commitment.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Bosnia and Herzegovina

# Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 16. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 29.91 square kilometres of land was released in 2017, including 8.27 square kilometres reduced through technical survey and 0.82 square kilometres released through clearance with 1,749 anti-personnel mines, 20 anti-tank mines and 797 explosive remnants of war having been located and destroyed. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported 20.75 square kilometres having being declared as "area without defined risk".
- 17. The Committee noted a discrepancy in the area addressed by technical survey and clearance during 2017 with 9.16 square kilometres reported in Form C and 7,369,292 square metres reported in Form F.2.
- 18. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that previously provided. The Committee noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS.
- 19. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide considerably more clarity regarding its progress in implementation by employing the Guide to Reporting.

#### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 20. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 16,699 "minefield records" remain to be addressed located within three administrative areas containing an estimated 82,000 anti-personnel mines and items of unexploded ordnance. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported an estimated area known to contain anti-personnel mines of 95 square kilometres and an estimated area suspected of containing anti-personnel mines of 1,061 square kilometres.
- 21. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be further clarified by presenting more precise information, including through the use of table as set out in the Guide to Reporting, on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

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

22. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The request provided an updated summary of milestones to be achieved in the period of 2019-2020 including an estimated 164,000,000 square metres to be cancelled through non-technical survey, 26,000,000 square metres reduced through technical survey and 2,000,000 square metres to be released through clearance. The work plan also includes a "country assessment" to be carried out by

BHMAC to establish a more realistic baseline for planning, improve its information management capacity and continue carrying out survey and clearance activities in accordance with its annual priorities. Bosnia and Herzegovina will submit a request for extension by 31 March 2020.

### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

- 23. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that methods for release of suspect and confirmed hazardous areas are defined through national standards and standard operational procedures in accordance with the IMAS. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that in cooperation with its partners it had commenced the process of revision of all mine action standards and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina which are currently in the process of being adopted by the Demining Commission. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on the status of these standards and SOPs.
- 24. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported a draft Demining Law having been forwarded to the Council of Ministers for adoption. The Committee further recalled the BHMAC also initiated the process of drafting its Exit Strategy of Mine Action (2019-2025) to be adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2017. The Committee would welcome updated information on the progress of these matters.

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

25. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested that Bosnia and Herzegovina provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP noted that, while the plan presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina's request was workable and ambitious, its success was contingent upon increased performance in technical survey, a high level of donor funding and the sustained and increasing availability of funds provided by local government. The Committee concluded that many of these matters remain pertinent to activities today and are addressed in the request submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

26. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including prioritisation of most impacted groups. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported it had taken measures to alert migrants to Mine/ERW/Cluster munitions risks. The Committee noted the actions taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gendersensitive, 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Cambodia

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 27. Cambodia reported that, 1,191 areas were released in 2017 measuring 95,272,760 square metres, including 28,243,926 square metres cancelled, 16,540,150 square metres reduced, and 50,488,685 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 5,465 anti-personnel mines and 18,560 other explosive items. Cambodia further reported that in 2017 the baseline survey was on-going in 41 districts and had identified 885 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 123,936,377 square metres.
- 28. Cambodia reported that for the period 2014-2016 40% of land contaminated with landmines was released by Non-Technical Survey and 60% through Technical Survey and clearance.
- 29. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Cambodia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that previously provided and welcomed Cambodia employing the Guide to Reporting in reporting on progress in implementation.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 30. The Committee noted that Cambodia provided clarity on its remaining challenge. Cambodia reported 9,695 SHAs remaining measuring 910,429,177 square metres.
- 31. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing annual updates on the impact of baseline survey efforts on annual projections and Cambodia's Article 5 deadline would be welcome.

## III. National plans for clearance and survey

32. The Committee noted that Cambodia's Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 was adopted in December 2017. The Committee noted that the strategy projects to release 894,868,065 square metres of area known or suspected to be contaminated with landmines, with annual milestones addressing 111.8 square kilometres per year.

### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

33. Cambodia reported that the Cambodian Mine Action Standards (CMAS) on land release (CMAS 15) were approved in October 2014. Cambodia further reported that the baseline survey is a standalone process to re-survey and re-verify suspect hazardous area, and is not part of land release process defined in CMAS 15.

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

34. The Committee recalled that the 2009 Second Review Conference had requested Cambodia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its

extension request. The Committee concluded that Cambodia had acted upon the commitments made in its extension request to develop and thereafter revise a single national clearance plan that takes into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

35. Cambodia reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines through national security sector, international INGOs and local self-help organisations, benefiting over 500,000 people. The Committee noted that beneficiary figures were disaggregated by sex and age and that Mine Risk Education activities are tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities with the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority providing training to all operators towards this goal.

### Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Chad

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

36. Chad has not reported on progress in implementation during the period of 2017.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 37. The Committee concluded that Chad provided some clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table of 5 confirmed mine affected locations in Bardai, Zouar, Aouzou, Zouarke and Wour and 2 suspect mine affected locations in Salamat and Abeche. The Committee recalled that Chad, in its provisional plan of action 2014-2019, indicated that, as of May 2014, 123 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 104,542,233 square metres remained to be addressed and that part of northern Tibesti remained to be surveyed. Chad reported that the regions of Tibesti, Borkou and Ennedi West remain areas "at risk".
- 38. The Committee concluded that Chad could considerably increase the clarity concerning the remaining challenge by providing a detailed list of the confirmed and suspected hazardous areas as well as further efforts by Chad to survey, identify and release mined areas.
- 39. The Committee further concluded that Chad could considerably increase the clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting.

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

- 40. In May 2014 Chad provided a provisional plan leading towards completion by its 1 January 2020 deadline, with this plan summarising which activities would take place in each region leading to 1 December 2019, and at what cost.
- 41. The Committee concluded that given ongoing survey activities, unknown effects of risk factors and lack of clarity regarding resource mobilisation an updated work plan, including detailed geographical milestones to be achieved in the years leading to Chad's deadline on 1 January 2020 would be welcome.

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

42. The Committee concluded that since Chad submitted its request the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee furthermore concluded that the use of IMAS terminology including in Article 7 reports would support Chad in providing clarity in implementation.

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

43. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) requested that Chad inform States Parties, by the end of 2015, of the results of the mid-term evaluation of

its strategy, including, if necessary, providing an updated strategy that takes into account new information. It also requested that Chad inform States Parties on an annual basis on the remaining Article 5 challenges, on efforts to diversify funding and to address inadequacies in information management, as well as on developments in the conditions, which had previously impeded and continued to affect its timely implementation of the Convention.

44. The Committee concluded that Chad did not act upon the decisions of the 13MSP and would welcome further information on these actions.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

45. In 2017, Chad reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from improvised explosive devices and other explosive remnants of war, including through MRE programmes in the regions of Borkou and Lake Chad. The Committee noted the actions taken by Chad in Mine Risk Education and welcomed information on Chad's efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive manner. The Committee also welcomes information on how Mine Risk Education Programs are 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Chile

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Chile reported that in 2017, it released 17 areas addressing 855,180 square metres, including 558,661 square metres cancelled and 296,519 square metres reduced destroying in the process 5,728 anti-personnel mines and 1,406 anti-vehicle mines.
- 2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Chile on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2011 extension request. The Committee welcomed Chile employing the Guide to Reporting.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 3. The Committee concluded that Chile had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Chile reported that, as of the end of 2017, 24 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 1,814,057 square metres and 4 suspected hazardous areas totalling 3,289,185 square metres remained to be addressed.
- 4. Chile reported that, following a technical survey in "Area de Peligro Seilao" of the Antofagasta region Chile's remaining challenge was increased from 1,971,780 square metres to 2,279,112 square metres. Chile reported that reasonable efforts are being taken to discard the presence of mines in the area including a geomorphological study which is expected to determine with greater precision the area for further investigation and area to be cancelled. Chile reported that in addition to this study, work continues through mechanical and manual means. The Committee would welcome further updates from Chile on the impact of survey results on annual milestones in Chile's work plan.
- 5. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge will be further clarified at which time Chile will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.

### III. National plans for clearance and survey

7. The Committee noted that Chile provided updated milestones for the period of 2018-2020 with 13 areas totalling 1,388,304 square metres to be released in 2018; 14 areas totalling 3,664,338 square metres to be released in 2019; and 1 area totalling 50,600 square metres to be released in 2020. Chile reported that the sharp increase in 2019 is due to various factors included the employment of new mechanical demining equipment, increased funding, the application of new land release procedures and other factors which have allowed a more precise definition of the affected areas. Chile reported that in 2019 it aims to complete operation in two areas located in the Commune of San Pedro de Atacama: A.P. Seilao measuring 2,279,112 square meters and in Valle Chico Izquierdo measuring 850,776 square meters.

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. Chile reported that it takes as its guide the IMAS as well as the Chilean Army's Humanitarian Demining Manual. Chile reported that the safety of demining operations for the deminers as well as for the population is its main focus during demining operations.

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

9. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had requested Chile to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Chile was acting upon the decisions of the 11MSP by providing updates relative to the timelines presented in its request. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further information on how outcomes of survey may change the remaining implementation challenge.

### VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Chile reported that mined areas are located in unpopulated border areas far from population centres and with difficult access, and that there is no regular transit of civilians through these areas. Chile reported that all mined areas are fenced and marked and that information is distributed to tourist, national agencies and private enterprises concerning the locations of mined areas. Chile also reported that its mine risk education campaign is carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in schools in areas close to minefields. The Committee noted the actions taken by Chile 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.

#### Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Colombia

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Colombia reported that in 2017 it addressed 136 areas releasing 1,941,671 square metres, including 75 areas measuring 209,866 square meters cancelled, 283,046 square meters reduced, and 61 areas measuring 259,783 square metres cleared. Colombia also reported 1,188,976 square meters released through 'information collection' in 17 departments of the country. In the process Colombia destroyed 140 anti-personnel mines and 47 items of UXO. Colombia reported that humanitarian demining activities have taken place in 80 municipalities with 783 non-technical survey, 67 technical surveys, and 65 clearance operations having taken place.
- 2. The Committee concluded that greater measurability of progress in implementation is possible, as Colombia obtains more clarity regarding its remaining challenge and is able to develop more specific work plans. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Colombia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS. Further information regarding releasing land through "information collection" and how it differs from Non-Technical Survey would be welcomed.
- 3. The Committee concluded that Colombia could provide increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 4. The Committee concluded that Colombia has provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Colombia reported suspected remaining contamination of 46,024,965 square metres. Colombia also reported that in 2017, 121 "dangerous areas" measuring 630,450 square meters and 116 "confirmed dangerous areas" measuring 617,657 square meters were identified through survey activities.
- 5. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing the remaining challenge would be further clarified and that Colombia should present more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

### III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. Colombia reported that it projects mine action interventions in 151 municipalities with 1,445,971 square meters to be released in 2018. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the efforts that will be carried out in these municipalities as well as a timelines for these activities. The Committee further concluded that continued updates on its plan would be welcome.

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. Colombia reported in its 2014 National Demining Plan that it undertakes activities in accordance with the IMAS and that Colombia makes use of non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) had requested that Colombia provides updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon the decisions of the 10MSP by providing an updated plan to the 2014 Third Review Conference and keeping the States Parties informed on progress in implementation.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

9. The Committee concluded that Colombia had provided information on efforts to carry out MRE including through projects for MRE in emergency situation, through the integration of MRE in the education system, MRE projects as a part of demining projects and traditional MRE through the community. Colombia reported that a total of 62,805 people benefited from mine risk education activities. The Committee noted the actions taken by Colombia in Mine Risk Education and noted these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, 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.

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Croatia

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Croatia reported that it released 36,485,259 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in 2017, including 6,600,192 square metres reduced through general survey and 29,885,067 square metres cleared. These efforts resulted in the destruction of 1,393 anti-personnel mines, 40 anti-vehicle mines and 4,419 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO). In addition, the Croatian Armed Forces reported clearance of military facilities measuring 481,900 square metres, destroying in the process 279 items of UXO.
- 2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Croatia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that Croatia could more clearly present implementation progress by using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, IMAS.
- 3. With regard to the areas addressed by the Armed Forces, the Committee concluded that progress could be presented more transparently, despite an understandable level of confidentiality.
- 4. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

#### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 5. The Committee concluded that Croatia had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Croatia reported that, as of the end of 2017, 411.5 square kilometres located in 9 counties remained to be addressed and 32.66 square kilometres of known or suspected area located near military sites. Croatia's remaining challenge consists of 269.51 square kilometres of confirmed hazardous area, and 141.95 square kilometres of suspect hazardous area estimated to contain 32,830 anti-personnel mines and 6,441 anti-vehicle mines.
- 6. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of the remaining confirmed and suspected hazardous areas in each county, with this list including each area's estimated size, status (i.e., "known" or "suspected") and geographic location. The Committee would further welcome increased information on the areas located near military installations.
- 7. The Committee also concluded that with survey activities ongoing, Croatia's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas to be addressed. The Committee welcomes further information from Croatia on the impact of survey on annual milestones and deadline for completion.

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

8. The Committee noted that Croatia submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that the request contained an updated work plan including tables and annual milestones for completion by 1 March 2026 (54.4 square kilometres in 2019, 53.7 square kilometres in 2020, 55.5 square kilometres in 2021, 57.2 square kilometres in 2022, 58.6 square kilometres in 2023, 58.2 square kilometres in 2024, and 49.7 square kilometres in 2025).

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

9. The Committee recalled that in its 2008 extension request, Croatia provided a detailed description of its land release methods in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards based on the IMAS. The Committee also recalled that in May 2016 a new law "Regulations on how demining, quality control, non-technical and technical surveys and marking of suspected hazardous areas" entered into force. The Committee concluded that information on how the law will impact progress towards completion would be welcome.

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

10.The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Croatia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled specifically that the 9MSP had requested Croatia to provide updates on its methodology to address SHAs in forested areas. The Committee further recalled Croatia reported to be working on technology for hyperspectral non-technical survey employing unmanned aerial vehicles with the aim to better analyse and define SHAs in forested areas. Reiterating its 2016 and 2017 conclusions, the Committee concluded that further information on these methodologies would be welcomed.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

11. Croatia reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines including 77 lectures and presentations conducted with 27,890 citizens. Croatia also reported 26,800 people were educated through 66 lectures of the, 'Less Arms, less tragedy' campaign conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and relevant police departments. Specific MRE was also given to a variety of associations and users of forested areas, including tourists. The Committee noted the actions taken by Croatia 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Cyprus

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

### I. Progress in implementation

Cyprus reported in 2012 that the sole circumstance that impeded its ability to destroy all antipersonnel mines in mined areas reported to be under its jurisdiction or control – namely that it
did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question – has not changed and that it
was not aware of any progress. In total, between entry into force of the Convention and its
original 1 July 2013 deadline, Cyprus has addressed all 20 mined areas under its effective control.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 2. Cyprus reported that, since July 2013, there are no anti-personnel mines on the territory under its effective control. Cyprus reported that the only known mined areas are located in the part of its territory outside of its effective control and that at least 20 mined areas are yet to be cleared, with one of these areas located within the buffer zone, in the vicinity of the village Deryneia.
- 3. Cyprus reported that it has taken concrete steps to ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in minefields and submitted to UNFICYP information on 28 known mined areas and that, according to information released by UNFICYP, those 28 areas were subject to non-technical survey by UNMAS, and according to its assessment only 3 of them require further technical survey.

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

- 4. The Committee recalled the ongoing importance, as noted by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods. The Committee concluded that Cyprus had acted upon its commitment.
- 5. The Committee noted that Cyprus submitted a request for extension on 2 February 2018 for 3 years, until 1 July 2022, for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by the Democratic Republic of the Congo

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. The Democratic Republic of the Congo report covered the period 1 January 2014 31 December 2017. Through its previous Article 7 report submitted in 2014, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had reported a remaining challenge by 31 December 2013 of 130 hazardous areas in nine provinces, measuring 1,711,763.02 square metres. During the reporting period the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported addressing 103 mined areas, releasing a total of 1,717,327 square metres, including; 333,934 square metres in 2014, 493,066 square metres in 2015, and 379,859 square metres in 2016, 445,150 square metres in 2017 and 65,318 square metres for the period January to March 2018. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also reported that it had suspended or closed four mined areas measuring 90,229 square metres.
- 2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by the Democratic Republic of the Congo on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided previously. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo could increase clarity on progress in implementation through the use of terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with IMAS.
- 3. The Committee concluded that the Democratic Republic of the Congo could provide more clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee also emphasises that the yearly submission of article 7 reports is an obligation under the Convention, and that such yearly submission by the Democratic Republic of the Congo will contribute to gain more clarity.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 4. The Committee concluded that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that, as of 31 March 2018, 56 mined areas remaining to be addressed measuring an estimated 535,359.20 square metres in 27 mined areas and 29 newly identified mined areas including 16 areas measuring an estimated 286,640 square metres and 13 mined areas with an area yet to be determined.
- 5. The Committee noted that further information from the Democratic Republic of the Congo regarding its remaining challenge including annual milestones for addressing its remaining challenge would be welcome. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed through the use of terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS.

### III. National plans for clearance and survey

- 6. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had tasked NPA to undertake re-survey of the 27 mined areas remaining from its initial survey in 2018. The Committee concluded that updates on the results of survey and their impact on the Democratic Republic of the Congo's projected annual milestones and remaining challenge would be welcome.
- 7. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that the original survey due to insecurity had not been conducted in the Dungu territories in the Upper Uele Province and in the Aru territories in Ituri Province. The Committee concluded that regular updated information on the security situation in these two provinces and possible surveys would be welcome.

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

11. The Committee welcomes further information from the Democratic Republic of the Congo regarding progress in implementation of actions contained within the Maputo Action Plan, in particular Action #9.

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

- 12. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2014 extension request. The Committee further recalled that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had committed to develop an operational plan by 1 January 2015. The Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitting an updated operational plan.
- 13.The Committee also reiterated that the Third Review Conference had noted that the Convention would benefit from the Democratic Republic of the Congo informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, as relevant, on the following: (i) the number, location and size of remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey, (ii) efforts and the results of efforts to mobilise funding to contribute to covering the costs of implementing the Democratic Republic of the Congo's national plans for survey and mine clearance, (iii) efforts and the results of efforts undertaken to strengthen national capacity to implement the Democratic Republic of the Congo's national plan, and, (iv) Whether circumstances which had previously impeded the timely implementation of the Convention were continuing to affect the fulfilment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the results of these efforts to make use of the full range of practical methods to release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines, in accordance with the United Nations Mine Action Standards.
- 14. The Committee concluded that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not acted upon the commitments made at the occasion of the granting of the extension request.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

15. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported for 2017 and 2018 4,188 sessions for a total of 77,772 beneficiaries. The Committee noted the actions taken by the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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 appropriate.	mine	action	activities,	namely	data	gathering,	clearance	and	victim	assistance	as

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Ecuador

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 8. Ecuador reported that in 2017 it addressed 7 mined areas releasing a total of 33,728.07 square metres including 10,919.47 square meters cancelled, 7,332.21 square meters reduced, and 15,476.39 square metres cleared destroying in the process 453 anti-personnel mines and 5 items of unexploded ordnance.
- 9. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in manner consistent with IMAS. The Committee welcomed Ecuador employing the Guide to Reporting.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Ecuador reported a remaining challenge consisting of 5 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 97,468.61 square metres. This includes 89,874 square metres in Zamora Chinchipe and areas within the km² of Twinza measuring 7,594,61 square metres, which are being addressed through the Ecuadorian-Peruvian Binational Demining Unit.

### III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. Ecuador reported that it will address 2 mined areas measuring 51,027 square metres, 9 mined areas measuring 12,555 square metres in 2019, 12 mined areas measuring 8,431 square metres in 2020, 10 mined areas measuring 10,340 square metres in 2021, and 26 mined areas measuring 7,521 square metres in 2022. Ecuador also reported that it will address 1 area of the Km² of Tiwinza measuring 7,594.61 square metres through the Binational Demining Unit.

### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

6. Ecuador reported that the Ecuador's Engineer Battalion and its General Demining and EOD Command use the Manual Demining Technique that has been established according to IMAS.

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

- 7. The Committee recalled that the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Ecuador to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had acted upon its commitment to submit updates on the commitments and timelines contain in section 11 of its extension request and the results of these efforts.
- 8. The 16MSP had further requested Ecuador to provide information on: i) progress made relative to the commitment and timelines in section 11 of its extension request and the results of these efforts, ii) outcome of survey and clearance efforts and how additional clarity obtained may

change Ecuador's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge and priorities for clearance, iii) progress made relative to the commitment and timelines to carry out quality control of cleared areas to complete the process of delivery of land that has been cleared since 2000 to the local community and the results of these efforts, iv) efforts undertaken to reach out to international entities to achieve Ecuador's desired outcome to conclude implementation well in advance of its requested extension deadline and the results of these effort. The Committee concluded that Ecuador did not act upon these commitments.

9. The Committee also recalled that the 16MSP had requested that Ecuador submit by 30 April 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee encourages the early submission of this update.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Ecuador reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including activities by the fourth Ecuador-Peru Binational Mine Risk Education Campaign which targeted with an approximate 500 people. The Committee concluded that further information would be welcome on efforts to ensure that Mine Risk Education 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.

### Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Eritrea

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Chile, Colombia, the Netherlands, Switzerland)

- 46. The Committee noted with concern that Eritrea has not submitted an update on progress on its implementation of Article 5 since 2014. In this regard, it has not been possible for the Committee to implement its mandate to present conclusions on implementation of Article 5 by Eritrea.
- 47. The Committee recalls that the annual submission of information, by 30 April, in accordance with Article 7 on, to the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under the jurisdiction or control of a State Party and on the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 is an obligation under the Convention. Accordingly, the Committee underlines the importance that Eritrea submits as soon as practicable information in accordance with Article 7 and recommends that Eritrea makes use of the Guide to Reporting.
- 48. The Committee concluded that, given Eritrea's upcoming Article 5 deadline of 1 February 2020, it is essential that Eritrea provides updated information on the status of implementation of its obligations under Article 5 and, if necessary, begins preparations for the submission of a second request for extension as permitted under Article 5.6 and in accordance with the extension request process established by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Ethiopia

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Chile, Colombia, the Netherlands, Switzerland)

- 49. The Committee noted with concern that Ethiopia has not submitted an update on progress in its implementation of Article 5 since 2016. In this regard, it has not been possible for the Committee to implement its mandate to present conclusions on implementation of Article 5 by Ethiopia.
- 50. The Committee recalls that the annual submission of information, by 30 April, in accordance with Article 7 on, to the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under the jurisdiction or control of a State Party and on the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 is an obligation under the Convention. Accordingly, the Committee underlines the importance that Ethiopia submits as soon as practicable information in accordance with Article 7 and recommends that Ethiopia makes use of the Guide to Reporting.
- 51. The Committee concluded that, given Ethiopia's upcoming Article 5 deadline of 1 June 2020, it is essential that Ethiopia provides updated information on the status of implementation of its obligations under Article 5 and, if necessary, begins preparations for the submission of a second request for extension as permitted under Article 5.6 and in accordance with the extension request process established by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Iraq

# Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Iraq reported, in 2017, that the (Directorate for Mine Action DMA) released 241 mined areas addressing 29,945,799 square metres, including 15,097 square metres of clearance in areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines, 23,147,092 square metres in areas affected by anti-tank mines and 6,783,610 square metres of areas reported to be of mixed contamination. DMA reported that through these efforts a total of 19, 823 explosive devices were destroyed.
- 2. Iraq also reported that, in 2017, the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA) released a total of 2,597,680 square metres including 546,013 square metres reduced and 2,051,667 square metres cleared. IKMAA also reported cancellation of an additional 5.2 square kilometres through non-technical survey.
- 3. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Iraq on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided previously. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Iraq used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee further concluded that Iraq could provide increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting.

#### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 4. The Committee concluded that Iraq provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Iraq reported that in areas under the responsibility of the DMA a total of 283 suspect hazardous areas in four Governorates, including three Governorates bordering Iran measuring 1,071,931,305 square metres remain to be addressed. In addition to these areas, Iraq reported that a further six mined areas in two Governorates measuring 26,855,456 square metres and 47 suspect hazardous areas in six governorates measuring 17,387,079 square metres remain to be addressed. Iraq also reported that in areas under the responsibility of IKMAA 2,943 mined areas measuring 171,458,064 square metres remain to be addressed.
- 5. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Iraq will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Iraq will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.

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

6. The Committee concluded that Iraq had provided a work plan annexed to its transparency report indicating areas in which it would undertake clearance and survey, indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how and by whom.

## IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. The Committee noted that Iraq has reported applying current land release standards to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.

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

8. The Committee noted that Iraq had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2017 extension request granted at the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties and including a plan for non-technical survey operations in the different areas of the country including NTS plans for areas liberated from ISIS. The Committee concluded that Iraq was acting upon the decisions of the 17MSP.

#### V. Mine risk reduction

9. Iraq reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programs and trainings with international and national organisations. Iraq reported a total of 677 MRE activities benefiting 130,325 beneficiaries for the reporting period by IKMAA and 407 MRE activities for DMA. The Committee noted the actions taken by the DMA and IKMAA 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Mauritania

# Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Mauritania reported that between 23 August and 15 December 2017 it cleared the entire area of Sebkhat Fogra, in the District of Ain Bintilli, destroying 35 anti-personnel mines and 93 anti-tank mines.
- 2. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2017 that, Mauritania reported the area of Sebkhat Fogra in the Ain Bintilli district was identified to contain anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The area in question is 1,000,000 square metres. The Committee would welcome further clarity on the size of the area addressed by Mauritania.
- 3. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Mauritania on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided previously. The Committee welcomed Mauritania employing the Guide to Reporting in reporting on progress in implementation.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. Mauritania reported that it had no remaining mined areas under its jurisdiction or control. The Committee concluded that Mauritania reported that it had addressed all mined areas. In this regard, the Committee congratulates Mauritania for this achievement and encourages the submission of a declaration of completion before the 18MSP.

## III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. Mauritania reported that at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017, surveys of the suspected areas were carried out and confirmed that all suspected areas were located within Mauritania's territory. Mauritania reported that these areas have now been addressed.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Mozambique

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia, the Netherlands)

- 52. 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.
- 53. Mozambique reported that following two accidents in which one boy was injured and another killed, Mozambique undertook an investigation in the concerned area. The investigation led to the identification of previously unknown mined areas in Nangade district, in Cabo Delgado, along the border with Tanzania, sometime after the Completion Declaration. Mozambique subsequently reported these areas and with the support its partner APOPO and in cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid addressed a total of 127, 522 square meters, out of which 11,218 square meters were cancelled, 86,326 square meters were reduced and 29,979 square meters were cleared, destroying in the process 107 anti-personnel mines and 1 unexploded ordnance. Mozambique reported that the task was successfully completed in June 2017.
- 54. 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.
- 55. Mozambique reported that four areas measuring 1,888 square meters remain inaccessible. 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.
- 56. The Committee observed 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.
- 57. The Committee noted 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.

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Niger

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 3. Niger reported that, for the period June 2011 to May 2014 it addressed 39,304 square metres in Bilma department in the Agadez Region. Niger reported that from May 2014 it had conducted non-technical and technical survey that confirmed the presence of mines in an area measuring 196,253 square metres near the military post of Madama, Bilma Department. Since 2015, Niger has destroyed 1,075 anti-personnel mines.
- 4. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Niger did not allow for comparability, since its last Article 7 report prior to the current one was provided in 2012. The Committee also emphasises that the yearly submission of article 7 reports is an obligation under the Convention, and that such yearly submission by Niger will contribute to gain more clarity.
- 5. The Committee noted that Niger could provide more clarity regarding its progress in implementation by employing the Guide to Reporting.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

6. The Committee concluded that Niger had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Niger reported that a total of 196,253 square meters are contaminated by anti-personnel mines in an area around the military post of Madama and that these areas are marked and monitored.

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

Niger reported that in 2018 it will address 56,000 square metres, 100,253 square metres in 2019 and 40,000 square metres in 2020. Niger reported that the minefield in Madama is affected by climatic hazards, such as sandstorms, intense heat, and cold. Niger further reported that access for demining teams to the area cannot be carried out without a military escort, and that CNCCAI does not possess the sufficient means to support these actions. The Committee would welcome updated information on progress and any delays in implementation.

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. Niger reported that it uses manual excavation with applicable safety and environmental standards for destroying anti-personnel mines. The Committee would welcome further information from Niger on the methodologies and relevant National Standards applicable in these operations as well as information concerning its application of International Mine Action Standards in development of its National Standards.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties (15MSP) had requested that Niger provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones

contained in its extension request. In this regard, the Committee noted that Niger had reported on progress made relative to the commitments in its extension request and had provided an updated work plan in its Article 7 Report including the amount of land to be addressed by month and year.

9. The Committee further recalled that the 15MSP requested Niger to report annually on progress made relative to efforts made to mobilize the necessary financial and technical support necessary to implement the work plan, and external financing and technical assistance received as well as resources made available by the Government of Niger to support implementation. The Committee noted that Niger had facilitated a mission by NPA to the area and further collaboration is being discussed. The Committee concluded that Niger had partially acted upon the decision of the 15MSP and welcomes further updates from Niger in this regard.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

9. The Committee noted that Niger indicated that the areas are fenced and monitored. Niger did not report on any additional actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Oman

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Oman reported that during 2017, an estimated area of 1,700 square metres was cleared by its mine clearing brigade in its Southern Strategic Sector, destroying in the process 4,578 anti-personnel mines
- 2. The Committee concluded that Oman would benefit from employing the Guide to Reporting.
- 3. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Oman allowed for comparability with with that provided previously. The Committee noted the importance of Oman using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. Oman reported that the SHAs are located in the Dhofar province. The Committee concluded Oman had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee also concluded that Oman could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of the remaining CHAs and SHAs with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "known" or "suspected") and information on the geographic location of each area.

### III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. Oman reported that a mine clearing plan was established in 2017 in the Southern Strategic Sector. The Committee concluded that further information on the identification and precise location of SHAs would be welcome as well as on the outcome of survey and clearance activities. The Committee further concluded that additional information on efforts to locate and address these areas ahead of Oman's 1 February 2025 deadline, including a work plan with milestones, would also be welcome.

## IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

6. The Committee concluded that additional information from Oman on the application of the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, pursuant to Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

#### V. Mine risk reduction

7. Oman indicated that SHAs are difficult to access, but are marked and fenced. The Committee concluded that Oman could provide further information on its efforts to effectively exclude the population from mined areas through marking and Mine Risk Education. The Committee also welcomes further information on Oman's efforts to ensure that Mine Risk Education 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.								

### Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Peru

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### **I.Progress in implementation**

- 1. Peru reported that in 2017 it addressed a total of 10 mined areas releasing 27,154.39 square metres, 10,737.55 square metres cancelled, 7,170.66 square metres reduced, and 9,246.18 square metres cleared, destroying 396 anti-personnel mines.
- 2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Peru allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2016 extension request. The Committee further concluded that progress in implementation was presented in a manner consistent with the IMAS.
- 3. The Committee noted that the 10 mined areas addressed by Peru in 2017 falls short of the projected 22 mined areas. The Committee welcomes further information from Peru regarding circumstances impeding Peru's progress in implementation.
- 4. The Committee welcomed Peru employing the Guide to Reporting.

### II.Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee concluded that Peru had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Peru reported that, as of the end of 2017, 124 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling 396,170.86 square metres remained to be addressed.

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

6. The Committee concluded that Peru had provided a work plan leading towards completion, indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected. In this regard, Peru intends to address a total of 124 mined areas, including 12 mined areas to be treated during 2018, 12 mined areas in 2019, 20 mined areas in 2020, 20 mined areas in 2021, 18 mined areas in 2022, 21 mined areas in 2023, and 21 areas in 2024.

### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. Peru reported that the humanitarian demining process is implemented according to land release standards approved by the national authority on humanitarian demining. In this regard, the Committee recalled its conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that indicates that updates from Peru on its land release policies and their implementation would be welcome.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Peru to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2016 extension request. In this regard, the Committee noted that Peru had reported on progress made relative to the commitments contained in section 15 of its extension request.

9. The Committee observed that in accordance with the decision of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties on the 30 May, 2018, Peru submitted an updated work plan to the States Parties and concluded that Peru was acting upon the decision of the 16MSP.

### VI. Mine risk reduction

- 10. The Committee noted that Peru did not provide any reporting on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes.
- 11. The Committee noted that further information from Peru would be welcome on its efforts to ensure that Mine Risk Education 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Senegal

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

 Senegal reported that in 2017 it addressed 18 mined areas, releasing 106,658 square metres and destroying 3 anti-personnel mines. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Senegal allowed for comparability with annual milestones of progress as given in Senegal's updated work plan. The Committee welcomed Senegal employing the Guide to Reporting.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 2. The Committee concluded that Senegal had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Senegal reported that 68 mined areas remain to be addressed totalling 282,945.103 square metres, including 42 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 262,025.103 square metres and 6 suspected hazardous areas totalling 20,920 square metres. Senegal also reported an additional 20 mined areas of an unknown size that remain to be surveyed. Senegal further reported that non-technical surveys need to be undertaken in 144 localities in 2018-2019.
- 3. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Senegal will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Senegal will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.
- 4. The Committee further concluded that, the remaining challenge in Senegal could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed by using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS.

## III. National plans for clearance and survey

- 5. Senegal reported that it will address 14 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 139,174.893 square metres in 2018 and 23 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 340,291.451 square metres in 2019. Senegal also reported that a remaining 144 localities will be subject to non-technical surveys by 2020, depending on the security situation and accessibility of areas which are due to be surveyed. The Committee welcomes regular updated information on the security situation as well as on the results of any surveys.
- 6. The Committee noted that the area planned to be addressed for the period 2018-2019 (479,466.344 square metres) is greater than its reported remaining challenge (282,945.103 square metres). The Committee welcomes further clarification from Senegal on its work plan to address its remaining challenge.
- 7. The Committee noted that Senegal had reported an annual contribution of 500,000,000 CFA francs for its mine action program activities.

### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. The Committee recalled that in Senegal's 2015 extension request, Senegal indicated that it developed National Mine Action Standards based on the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards, (IMAS) which provide information on its land release methods and specify criteria used to cancel land through non-technical and technical survey. Senegal reported that it updated its National Mine Action Standards in 2013 with the support of experts.

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

9. The Committee recalled that the 14MSP had requested Senegal to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that Senegal was acting upon the decision of the 14MSP.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Senegal reported that mine risk education programmes were not carried out in 2017 due to a lack of funding. The Committee concluded that further information on Senegal's efforts to ensure that mine risk education activities are resourced would be welcome. The Committee noted the actions taken by Senegal 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Serbia

# Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

## I. Progress in implementation

- 58. Serbia reported that in 2017 it addressed 275,800 square metres of suspect hazardous area (SHAs) through clearance in Bujanovac municipality destroying 3 anti-personnel mines and 1 item of unexploded ordnance. Serbia also reported that it is currently conducting technical survey on a second project measuring 113,600 square metres.
- 59. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Serbia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance, and area released through cancellation.
- 60. The Committee welcomed Serbia employing the Guide to Reporting.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 61. The Committee concluded that Serbia had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Serbia reported that a total of 12 SHAs totalling 2,354,540 square metres remained to be addressed in six localities of Bujanovac municipality.
- 62. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Serbia will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Serbia will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.

## III. National plans for clearance and survey

- 63. The Committee noted that Serbia submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The request includes a work plan for completion including projected annual milestones to be addressed including, a total of 2 mined areas in 2018 measuring 649,000 square metres, 3 mined areas in 2019 measuring 462,400 square metres, 2 mined areas in 2020 measuring 467,880 square metres, 2 mined areas in 2021 measuring 269,240 square meters, 1 area in 2022 measuring 291,400 square metres and 2 areas in 2023 measuring 214,620 square metres.
- 64. Serbia reported that funds for demining operations in 2017 were allocated from the Serbian State budget, which the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) matched with US funding. These funds were allocated for technical survey of five projects measuring 995,200 square metres. Serbia reported that it had completed one project and is currently conducting technical survey on a second mined area; with a further three projects to be implemented based on securing funds from donors and other sources of funding.

65. Serbia reported that it will double its allocation of funding from the State budget for demining operations in 2018. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Serbia has committed to increase its financial resources to fulfil its obligations during the requested extension period.

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

66. Serbia provided a description of the methods used to release areas suspected to contain mines. The Committee concluded that Serbia would benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.

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

- 67. The Committee noted that Serbia submitted an updated work plan to the Committee in March 2016. Serbia reported that the lack of adequate financial resources as one challenge confronting Serbia in completing its Article 5 obligations by 1 March 2019. The Committee noted that Serbia had a plan to increase contributions from its State budget for demining operations in 2018 and that this demonstrated greater national ownership in this regard. The Committee welcomes annual updates on Serbia's national contribution to fulfil its Article 5 obligations and concluded that it was acting upon the decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP).
- 68. The Committee noted that in this context, using all resources and techniques available, Serbia could be in a position to proceed with implementation much faster than suggested and that this would benefit both the Convention and Serbia. The Committee recalled that in granting the request, the 13MSP had noted the importance of external support to ensure implementation and that Serbia could benefit from developing a resource mobilisation strategy, and welcomes further information from Serbia on possible resource mobilisation strategies that take into account the need to reach out to a wide range of national and international funding sources.

### VI. Mine risk reduction

69. Serbia has reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Serbia reported that contaminated areas are visibly marked with warning signs in Serbian and Albanian languages. Serbia further reported that affected communities are informed about demining activities, including through schools and other media. The Committee noted the actions taken by Serbia 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Somalia

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

### I. Progress in implementation

- 10. Somalia reported that, in 2017 it registered 22 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) and 2 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA). Somalia further reported that in 2017 its implementing agencies cancelled 5,262 square metres and cleared 187,720 square metres.
- 11. Somalia reported that the Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) had taken over ownership of the IMSMA database from UNMAS on 2 October 2017 and that the process of updating and verifying historical data was in progress. Somalia reported it had implemented a new country reporting structure covering 7 states; Banadir, Hirshabelle, South West, Jubaland, Galmudug, Puntland and Somaliland. Somalia further reported on progress in 3 states, Galmudug, Hirschabelle and South West with information from Banadir, Jubaland and Puntland currently in the process of being updated. Somalia also reported that SEMA was initiating coordination and communication processes with Somaliland to ensure relevant information on progress in implementation is made available for the next Article 7 Report.
- 12. The Committee noted the importance of Somalia reporting on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS, and encourages Somalia to employ the Guide to Reporting. The Committee also emphasises that the yearly submission of article 7 reports is an obligation under the Convention, and that such yearly submission by the Somalia will contribute to gain more clarity.

#### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 13. The Committee concluded that Somalia provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Somalia reported that 108 CHA and 5 SHA located in the states of Galmudug, Hirshabelle and South West are registered in SEMA's database and that only 18 CHA are contaminated by antipersonnel mines.
- 14. Somalia further reported that contamination by mines and unexploded ordnance in three states, (Galmudug, Hirschabelle and South West) totalled 18,577,705 square metres of which 6'098'836 square meters is confirmed hazardous area contaminated by anti-personnel mines.
- 15. The Committee concluded that, with database updates in process Somalia's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.
- 16. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Somalia will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Somalia will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee further concluded that, the remaining challenge in Somalia could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed by using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS.

17. The Committee noted that Somalia disaggregated its remaining challenge by type of explosive ordnance and noted that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and other explosive remnants of war also pose extreme risks to the civilian population and to the implementation of development activities. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Somalia's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Somalia. The Committee noted the importance of Somalia continuing to disaggregate the challenge of anti-personnel mine contamination.

### III. National plans for clearance and survey

- 18. Somalia reported that the first draft of the Somali National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2020 will support Somalia to realise its obligations under the Convention. Somalia further reported that due to the short duration of the strategy, interim reviews will be conducted every 6 months. Somalia also reported that it is waiting for approval of its Badbaado plan phase II, a five year implementation plan for fulfilling Somalia's obligations under the Convention. The Committee noted that information on the objectives and milestones for monitoring progress leading towards Somalia's 1 October 2022 deadline for implementation of Article 5 would be welcome.
- 19. Somalia also reported that non-technical survey (NTS) is being implemented in 5 states, with capacity building of NTS teams also being conducted. The Committee noted that with survey activities ongoing, updates on the results of survey and capacity building efforts would be welcome, including impact on Somalia's annual work plan and Article 5 deadline, 1 October 2022.

## IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

20. The Committee concluded that information from Somalia on its efforts to ensure the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies are in place as soon as possible, in accordance with the Maputo Action Plan #8, 9, 10 and the IMAS would be welcome.

### V. Mine risk reduction

21. Somalia reported on the implementation of mine risk education actions during the reporting period. The Committee noted that MRE activities benefited 21,126 people. The Committee noted that data on MRE beneficiaries was disaggregated by sex and age. The Committee further noted that outputs of MRE in Jubaland and Puntland are currently being updated and welcomes Somalia informing States Parties of relevant information in this regard. The Committee would welcome further information from Somalia regarding the design of age-appropriate and gendersensitive 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.

## **Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by South Sudan

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. South Sudan reported that in 2017 it released a total of 1,371 mined areas measuring 11,893,886 square metres, including 2,043,206 square metres cancelled through non-technical survey, 3 square metres reduced through technical survey, and 9,850,679 square metres cleared destroying 734 anti-personnel mines, 42 anti-tank mines, and 33,824 items of unexploded ordnance.
- 2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by South Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that previously provided. The Committee welcomed South Sudan using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS.
- 3. The Committee welcomed South Sudan employing the Guide to Reporting.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 4. The Committee concluded that South Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. South Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2017, 56 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 2,579,507 square metres and 164 suspected hazardous areas totalling 77,052,215 square metres remained to be addressed.
- 5. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in South Sudan will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time South Sudan will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee concluded that it would welcome South 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. South Sudan reported that despite increasing insecurity there has been progress on clearance. The Committee concluded that further information from South Sudan on national plans for survey and clearance, including annual milestones would be welcome.

### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. South Sudan reported that land release process is implemented in line with National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) that are based on the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) with all areas either cancelled through non-technical survey or prioritized for technical survey and clearance.

#### V. Mine risk reduction

8. South Sudan reported in detail on the actions it had taken to effectively educate civilians with age appropriate and gender sensitive mine risk education (MRE) programmes specifically targeting internally displaced persons, at risk communities and primary school children. In 2017, South

Sudan reported that its MRE programmes reached a total of 346,254 beneficiaries. The Committee concluded that information provided by South Sudan on MRE was disaggregated by age and sex.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Sudan

# Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

## I. Progress in implementation

- Sudan reported that in 2017 it addressed 26 mined areas measuring 1,041,760 square metres, including 74,875 square metres cancelled, 259,551 square metres reduced and 707,334 square metres cleared, destroying 144 anti-personnel mines, 59 antitank mines and 98,885 items of unexploded ordnance.
- 7. The Committee noted that the information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2013 extension request.
- 8. The Committee concluded that while this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with previous recommendations endorsed by the States Parties the Committee noted a minor discrepancy in annex II to Sudan's report in which it indicates having addressed 795,645 square metres and having destroyed 30 anti-personnel mines in 2017, which does not correspond with the information provided in point 2 of the report as reported in paragraph 1 above. The Committee noted that clarifications with respect to these minor discrepancies would be welcome.
- 9. The Committee welcomed Sudan employing the Guide to Reporting.

#### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 10. The Committee concluded that Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Sudan reported a remaining challenge at of the end of 2017 of 18,733,895 square metres including 52 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) totalling 2,402,260 square metres and 42 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) totalling 16,331,635 square metres.
- 11. The Committee noted that while Sudan reported having addressed 26 mined areas, the number of areas to be addressed had decreased from 99 to 94 in 2017. The Committee would welcome additional clarity on this issue.
- 12. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Sudan will be further clarified following survey of SHA at which time Sudan will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee concluded 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

13. The Committee noted that Sudan submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that the request for extension included an updated work plan for completion with the following milestones: 80 SHAs measuring 3.8 square kilometres and 3 CHAs measuring 4.2 square kilometres to be addressed in 2017-2018; 54 SHAs measuring 10.2 square kilometres and 3 CHAs measuring 13.2 square

- kilometres to be addressed in 2018-2019; 16 SHAs measuring 5 square kilometres square metres and 2 CHAs measuring 5.4 square kilometres to be addressed in 2019-2020.
- 14. The Committee observed that Sudan's work plan included a sharp increase in the amount of area to be addressed in the period 2018-2019. The Committee would welcome updates from Sudan on reasons for the sharp increase, and efforts to increase capacity to meet this increase.
- 15. The Committee concluded that Sudan's national plan for survey and clearance could be more clearly presented if Sudan used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS.
- 16. Sudan reported that insecurity in parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile States has impacted the efforts of Sudan to meet its Article 5 commitments by its 1 April 2019 deadline. It also reported that its work plan is based on the assumptions that there will be an improvement in the security situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The other factors that may hamper the implementation includes conflict, frequent movement of population, finding additional hazards, high metallic soils, and the rainy season. The Committee welcomes further information from Sudan on these matters.

## IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

17. 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

- 18. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Sudan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Sudan was acting upon the decisions of the 13MSP by providing specific updates on each of these matters.
- 19. The Committee observed that the Eastern States of Sudan was accessible for demining operations, while access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was limited for clearance and survey operations due to insecurity. Sudan reported that it had undertaken limited survey and clearance in the two States in support of humanitarian aid, surveying and clearing a total of 37,898 kilometres of road. The Committee would welcome updates on the results of survey and clearance activities and their impact on Sudan's implementation of its Article 5 obligations.
- 20. The Committee noted Sudan had provided an update on 'data clean-up' efforts, Sudan reported that it had aimed to complete data clean-up during 2017. The Committee concluded that given the importance of accurate data to the status of operations, further information on Sudan's progress in this area would be welcome.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

21. Sudan reported 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 3,608,279 beneficiaries.



## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Tajikistan

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

### I. Progress in implementation

- 22. Tajikistan reported that in 2017 it addressed a total 18 mined areas measuring 1,258,092 square meters with 483,419 square metres cancelled, 156,615 square metres reduced and 618,058 square metres cleared destroying in the process 6,647 anti-personnel mines and 221 items of unexploded ordnance. Tajikistan also reported that it had addressed two areas through battle area clearance measuring 377,715 square metres, destroying 167 cluster munitions and 2 items of UXO.
- 23.The Committee concluded that the information provided by Tajikistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability. The Committee concluded that this information was disaggregated in accordance with IMAS. The Committee also welcomed Tajikistan employing the Guide to Reporting.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 24.The Committee concluded that Tajikistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Tajikistan reported that, as of the end of 2017, 153 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 7,458,646 square metres and 59 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 1,345,000 square metres remain to be addressed.
- 25. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Tajikistan will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Tajikistan will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.

## III. National plans for clearance and survey

- 26.Tajikistan reported that in 2018 it aimed to address 30 mined areas in three regions; Khatlon, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast and the Central Region measuring 1,923,861 square metres. Tajikistan further reported that in 2019 it aims to address 30 mined areas in three regions measuring 2,025,712 square metres.
- 27.Tajikistan reported that in November 2017, the Border Guard Troops of the State National Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan were given permission to conduct demining operations in the areas in Khatlon Region. No demining operations had taken place in this border area since 2016 due to the unstable situation on the border and in the interests of the safety of humanitarian workers. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updates on matters relating to security and access to border areas and how these matters affect the timelines for operations.

## IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

28.Tajikistan reported that it has issued Decree No. 162, 1 April 2017, approving national standards for all Humanitarian Mine Action Activities. In 2017 the instruction on 'Non-technical survey with technical intervention' was approved by Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre to enable implementing organisations to use targeted technical survey in an effort to more precisely identify the location of minefields. The Committee would welcome further updates from Tajikistan on the impacts of new methodologies on operational efficiency in Tajikistan.

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

- 29.The Committee observed that Tajikistan had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request including the approval in 2017 by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of the National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for Humanitarian Mine Action (2017-2020).
- 30. The Committee concluded that Tajikistan was acting upon the decisions taking by the Second Review Conference.
- 31.The Committee recalled the 2RevCon decision that Tajikistan could benefit from increasing its frequency of contact with donors and clearly communicating the socio-economic development benefits that would flow from completing Article 5 implementation and would welcome more information on these efforts.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

32.The Committee noted that Tajikistan continued to report on efforts taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas through marking and mainstreaming MRE in the school curriculums in vulnerable regions of the country. Tajikistan indicated that in high risk areas it has carried out a series of activities on mine awareness and community outreach. The Committee noted the actions taken by Tajikistan 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Thailand

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Thailand reported that in 2017 it addressed a total of 42 suspect hazardous areas (SHA) located in 16 districts of 9 Provinces, releasing 30,979,269 square metres, including 26,450,492 square metres cancelled, 4,115,068 square metres reduced and 413,705 square metres cleared destroying 5,664 anti-personnel mines and 237 other items of unexploded ordnance.
- 2. The Committee noted a minor discrepancy in the amount of area reported released in 2017 with 30,948,474 square metres also being reported as released in 2017. The Committee would welcome clarification on this discrepancy.
- 3. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with information provided in its 2017 extension request. The Committee welcomes that Thailand reporting a manner consistent with IMAS.
- 4. The Committee welcomed Thailand employing the Guide to Reporting.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee concluded that Thailand provided clarity on its remaining challenge. Thailand reported that during the reporting period an additional SHA measuring 30,795 square metres was identified. Thailand reported that as of 31 December 2017, 279 SHAs located in 29 districts, of 13 provinces, totalling 391,656,698 square metres remain to be addressed. The Committee noted that Thailand has classified its remaining challenge as SHAs that can be operated/surveyed measuring 42,946,771 square metres and SHAs that are currently inaccessible due to pending demarcation process measuring 348,709,927 square metres.

## III. National plans for clearance and survey

- 6. The Committee observed that Thailand planned to address 67 SHAs measuring 71,152,827 square metres in 2018 with a remaining challenge after 2018 consisting of 215 SHAs measuring 306,985,681 square metres.
- 7. The Committee would welcome information on Thailand's progress to complete Phase 1 by 1 November 2018.

## IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. Thailand reported that in 2017 it had re-established the National Committee for Mine Action under the Order of the Prime Minister, with the Prime Minister as its chairperson.

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

- 9. The Committee observed that Thailand had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2017 extension request granted at the 16MSP. The Committee recalled Thailand's commitment to submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request.
- 10. The Committee further recalled that the decision of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Thailand to keep the States Parties informed on progress in updating the National Mine Action Standards in line with the latest version of IMAS and the results of this effort in addition to other matters. The Committee would welcome updates with respect to these commitments and milestones.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

- 11. The Committee observed that Thailand has reported in detail on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including by raising awareness and promoting behavioural changes through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities. Thailand reported that its MRE programmes reached 41,913 people in 2017.
- 12. The Committee concluded that the information on MRE messaging and beneficiaries provided by Thailand was not disaggregated by gender and age and encourages Thailand to disaggregate statistics in this manner. The Committee welcomes further information on Thailand's 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by the United Kingdom

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

## I. Progress in implementation

- 1. The United Kingdom reported that Phase 5a of demining / land release operations began in 2016 and continued into 2017. The United Kingdom reported that 33 suspect hazardous areas (SHAs) were addressed in 2017 at Goose Green and Stanley Area destroying in the process, 2,700 antipersonnel landmines.
- 2. The Committee concluded 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. The Committee further concluded that the United Kingdom could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom had provided a high level of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. 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.

### III. National plans for clearance and survey

- 4. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The request includes a work plan indicating that all remaining areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines will be addressed in two phases: Phase 5a, (November 2016 March 2018) and Phase 5b (April 2018 March 2020). The report further highlights that 18 mined areas contained within Phase 5a Cluster 2 have been technically surveyed with clearance to take place in Phase 5b with Phase 5b aiming to address 42 mined areas in 4 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 5,557,380 square metres with an additional 5 mined areas with a size yet to be determined).
- 5. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom expects to deal with all remaining areas within Phase 5b expect 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.

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

6. The United Kingdom reported that on the Islands meets or exceeds the IMAS, by adapting them to meet the specifics of the situation found on the Islands. It also applies local environmental and planning regulations.

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

7. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested the United Kingdom to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom was acting upon the decisions of the 9MSP.

## VI. Mine risk reduction

8. The United Kingdom reported that fences and minefield marker warnings are placed around all CHAs and SHAs, and that school children are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings, as appropriate.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Turkey

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Turkey reported that in 2017 it addressed 19 mined areas, releasing 8,482,671 square metres, including, 7,583,110 square meters cancelled, 75,445 square metres reduced and 824,116 square metres addressed through clearance resulting in the destruction of 61,508 anti-personnel mines and 1,026 anti-tank mines.
- 2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous information provided. The Committee also welcomed Turkey employing the Guide to Reporting.

## II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

- 3. The Committee concluded that Turkey had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Turkey reported a total of 3,061 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 164,082,568 square metres containing 718,663 anti-personnel mines and 194,649 anti-tank mines, and 701 suspect hazardous areas remaining to be addressed.
- 4. The Committee also concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Turkey will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Turkey will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.

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

- 5. Turkey reported that five new demining companies have been approved by the Ministry of Defence, with three of those planned to be operational by the end of 2018, with the remaining companies in 2019. Turkey also reported that Phase 2 of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project would commence on 20 June 2018 with the plan to release 1,200,000 square metres.
- 6. Turkey reported that the National Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2019-2021 is expected to be approved and published in 2018. The Committee would welcome information on the milestones for progress in mine clearance leading towards Turkey's 1 March 2022 deadline for implementation of Article 5.

#### IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. Turkey reported that it had prepared and submitted the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) including land release policy to the National Standards Institute of Turkey and are expected to be approved in 2018. The Committee would welcome further information on the timeline for approving national standards, as well as the standards and methodologies to be employed.

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

- 8. In submitting its updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension as decided by the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) by March 2015, Turkey indicated that this work plan would be finalised by the National Mine Action Centre, that there is an ongoing detailed exploration of mined areas in border regions, and that, as a result, further revisions to the plan are possible. The Committee would welcome ongoing updates from Turkey on its plan to implement Article 5.
- 9. The Committee further concluded that Turkey was complying with all decisions of the 13MSP by keeping the States Parties informed of progress in the clearance of mined areas in areas other than borders and by submitting an update on developments in the establishment of the NMAA and the NMAC; this includes enactment of National legislation that places the TURMAC under the Directorate of General Plans and Principles of the Ministry of National Defence.

#### VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas. Turkey reported that the Turkish Ministry of Education provides mine risk education in territories where mine risk exists and takes into consideration age, sex and other relevant classifications.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Ukraine

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

#### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Ukraine reported the identification of 6 mined areas with reference points including one mined area in Volnovasky district, one in Limansk district, and three mined areas in Slavyansk district within Donetsk Region, and one mined area in Popasnyansky district, Lugansk Region.
- 2. The Committee concluded 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 survey efforts to address identified mined areas.
- 3. The Committee also concluded that Ukraine could increase clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting.

### ii. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee concluded that Ukraine had not provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge and that clarity could be increased by employing the Guide to Reporting.

#### iii. Efficient and expedient implementation

- 5. The Committee concluded 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.
- 6. The Committee recalled the decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties in which the States Parties expressed serious concern that Ukraine was at that stage in a situation of non-compliance with Article 5 and called on Ukraine to submit as soon as possible a request for extension in accordance with the process established by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee expresses serious concerned that, despite the reiteration of this decision by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties and the Committee's engagement with Ukraine both in Geneva and in Kyiv, as of 15 September 2017, Ukraine has not submitted a request for extension.
- 7. The Committee takes note of the Note Verbal submitted by Ukraine on 30 May 2018 to the Secretary General of the UN and circulated on 01 June 2018 via the ISU to all States Parties. The Committee notes that "the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and other authorities adopted legal acts that constitute a basis for the derogation of Ukraine from certain obligations under few international agreements." In this regard, the Committee observes that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction does not foresee derogations.

8. The Committee reiterates its offer to support Ukraine in preparing an extension request in and consistent with the Committee's mandate and the decisions of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Meetings of the States Parties.

## iv. Mine risk reduction

9. Ukraine reported that in the areas of combat operations on the territory of Donetsk and Lugansk where mines are identified they are marked by special signs and that the local population is informed about these areas. 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.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Yemen

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Chile, Colombia, the Netherlands, Switzerland)

- 70. The Committee noted with concern that Yemen has not submitted an update on progress in its implementation of Article 5 in 2018. In this regard, it has not been possible for the Committee to implement its mandate to present conclusions on implementation of Article 5 by Yemen.
- 71. The Committee recalls that the annual submission of information, by 30 April, in accordance with Article 7 on, to the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under the jurisdiction or control of a State Party and on the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 is an obligation under the Convention. Accordingly, the Committee underlines the importance that Yemen submits as soon as practicable information in accordance with Article 7 and recommends that Yemen makes use of the Guide to Reporting.
- 72. The Committee concluded that, given Yemen's upcoming Article 5 deadline of 1 March 2020, it is essential that Yemen provides updated information on the status of implementation of its obligations under Article 5 and, if necessary, begins preparations for the submission of a third request for extension as permitted under Article 5.6 and in accordance with the extension request process established by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

## Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Zimbabwe

## Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)

### I. Progress in implementation

- 1. Zimbabwe reported that in 2017, a total of 6,218,692 square metres was released; including 1,768,118 square metres cancelled, 2,794,713 square metres reduced and 1,655,861 square metres cleared destroying in the process 30,533 anti-personnel mines, 4 anti-tank mines and 2 items of unexploded ordnance.
- 2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with annual milestones provided in their 2017 extension request.
- 3. The Committee welcomed Zimbabwe employing the Guide to Reporting.

### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Zimbabwe reported that as a result of technical survey operations its remaining challenge increased by 1,782,579 square meters. Zimbabwe reported that 7 mined areas totalling 61,793,990 square meters remain to be addressed.

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

5. Zimbabwe provided a detailed work plan in its 2017 extension request leading towards completion by its 31 December 2025 deadline. Zimbabwe provided an updated summary of annual areas to be addressed including 7,160,645 square metres in 2018; 8,013,488 square metres in 2019; 8,337,429 square metres in 2020; 8,987,429 square metres in 2021; 8,865,123 square metres in 2022; 7,973,777 square metres in 2023; 6,727,746 square metres in 2024, and; 5,828,353 square meters in 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. Zimbabwe reported that following the application of these methodologies the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre and the National Mine Action Authority had submitted their recommendations but that official authorisation is yet to be given. Zimbabwe further reported that the tools will continue operating in the pilot window to keep pace with targets.

## 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 concluded that Zimbabwe was complying with the commitments contained therein.
- 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 ZIMAC to be provided appropriate accommodation and funds mobilised for this purpose.
- 9. 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.

## VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Zimbabwe reported that mined areas are marked with fences and clear boundaries, with clearance organisations and MRE teams placing markings on critical areas and areas where operations are taking place. Zimbabwe reported that funding constraints restricts wholesome renewal and maintenance of the warning signs and markings. Zimbabwe reported that MRE is carried out during exhibition shows at district, province and national levels. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe collected sex and age disaggregated data on beneficiaries, reaching a total of 11,982 girls, 3,546 women, 11,312 boys and 2,142 men during 2017.