

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION
AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

9 November 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

**Eighth Meeting
Dead Sea, 18 – 22 November 2007**

**DECLARATION OF COMPLETION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE,
STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL
MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION¹**

Submitted by the Kingdom of Swaziland

1. On 22 December 1998, the Kingdom of Swaziland ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the Convention subsequently entered into force for the Kingdom on 1 June 1999.
2. On 16 February 2000, the Kingdom of Swaziland submitted an initial transparency report as required under Article 7 of the Convention, indicating an area under the jurisdiction or control of the Kingdom in which anti-personnel mines were suspected to be emplaced. In doing so, the Kingdom acknowledged that it had an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention to determine if there were indeed anti-personnel mines emplaced in this reported area, and if so, to ensure, by 1 June 2009, the destruction of these mines.
3. The area in question runs along the Kingdom's eastern border with Mozambique, at a place called Lomahasha, and is approximately 100 metres wide and 4,500 metres long. It has been fenced for agricultural purposes – to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease. Government archives documented joint mine clearance activities undertaken in the suspected area in 1988 by the Mozambican Army and Swaziland's armed forces and police during which 66 PMD 6 type mines, 1 mortar round and 1 POMZ type mine were removed. It is believed that all known mines were removed at the time.

¹ Reproduced in the language of submission, without any editorial changes, as received by the Secretariat.

4. In 1999 in a separate bilateral effort, the United States military provided training assistance to the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force. Warning signs were placed on the existing fence given that previous clearance records were not available.

5. In order to verify the status of this area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and to determine whether there were still anti-personnel mines emplaced in it, the Kingdom of Swaziland undertook the following activities:

6. In 2006, the Kingdom of Swaziland requested assistance from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), including the AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit, to determine in more detail the extent of Swaziland's implementation challenge and to identify solutions to address this challenge by its 1 June 2009 deadline. A GICHD support visit took place on 2-6 October 2006. During the visit, representatives of the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Agriculture, the Police Force and the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force met with the GICHD to review the information available and conduct an inspection visit covering the entire length of the suspected area.

7. The following observations were made during the mission:

- There have been no recorded casualties and there were no evident signs of anti-personnel mines;
- Well used walking paths cross the suspected area in at least 10 places;
- Dwellings have been constructed in the suspected area by the Ministry of Agriculture;
- A number of locations have been burnt but there were no signs of mines exploding;
- On the Mozambican side, houses have been constructed backing onto the border fence;
- The second half of the suspected area features rocky terrain where it would not be possible to lay mines;
- Mozambican experts consulted during the visit indicated that all PMD-6 type mines discovered in the past ten years in Mozambique had decayed and could not function.

8. Based on these observations and on the evidence compiled, the support visit concluded that the area was most likely not dangerous, but recommended that a physical verification check be carried out. In addition, it was recommended that a sample check should be undertaken by using standard manual demining / survey techniques to run lanes across the area. It was further suggested that specific areas could be excluded, such as cultivated areas and areas with dwellings and rocky zones, and, that up to 30 lanes would be sufficient. As well, it was recommended that verification should be done according to accepted standards, that work should be monitored, and that the activity should be documented.

9. Swaziland agreed with the recommendations made by the implementation support visit and followed up by seeking technical support from the Nairobi-based International Mine Action Training Centre. On 29 November 2006, an instructor from this Centre surveyed the area with

members of Swaziland's defence forces. This survey confirmed the findings of October's implementation support visit. On 4 December 2006, work commenced at Lomahasha. The area was reduced to 3,000 metres x 100 metres due to agricultural activity taking place on a 1,500 metres x 100 metres stretch.

10. The International Mine Action Training Centre conducted a 10 day refresher training for USDF personnel and on 4 December 2006 USDF personnel were deployed to begin the process of clearing 20 lanes. Independent observers were invited to witness Swaziland's efforts. As of the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees established by the Convention, Swaziland had marked and established 6 working lanes and 3 lanes had been demined. No mines were found.

11. Following the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees, a wildfire swept through much of the area in question. No explosions were reported. Moreover, the wild fire resulted in the elimination of vegetation permitting a dramatically increased pace progress in undertaking verification work. By the end of August 2007, 30 lanes had been completed and no mines or other explosive hazards were found. A record of the location of these 30 lanes is annexed to this declaration.

12. As a result of efforts undertaken since the Kingdom of Swaziland submitted its initial transparency report, the Kingdom of Swaziland declares that on 31 August 2007 it had fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention by having determined that there are no longer areas under the jurisdiction or control of the Kingdom of Swaziland in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced.

13. In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, the Kingdom of Swaziland will:

- (i) report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other informal means such as the Intersessional Work Programme;
- (ii) ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5 and;
- (iii) destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.

Annex

Geographic references of the start points of verification lanes

LANE	GRID		ELEVATION
1.	25°59 79 S	032°00.35 E	571 M
2.	25°59 77 S	032°00.39 E	572 M
3.	25°59 76 S	032°00.42 E	578 M
4.	25°59 74 S	032°00.45 E	577 M
5.	25°59 71 S	032°00.50 E	577 M
6.	25°59 70 S	032°00.52 E	576 M
7.	25°59 74 S	032°00.46 E	576 M
8.	25°59 72 S	032°00.49 E	576 M
9.	25°59 71 S	032°00.52 E	575 M
10.	25°59 68 S	032°00.59 E	576 M
11.	25°59 67 S	032°00.61 E	580 M
12.	25°59 67 S	032°00.65 E	575 M
13.	25°59 68 S	032°00.68 E	569 M
14.	25°59 69 S	032°00.71 E	569 M
15.	25°59 70 S	032°00.75 E	567 M
16.	25°59 71 S	032°01.79 E	566 M
17.	25°59 73 S	032°01.84 E	563 M
18.	25°59 74 S	032°01.87 E	546 M
19.	25°59 75 S	032°01.90 E	542 M
20.	25°59 76 S	032°01.93 E	547 M
21.	25°59 77 S	032°01.96 E	5487 M
22.	25°59 81 S	032°01.06 E	551 M
23.	25°59 83 S	032°01.11 E	544 M
24.	25°59 84 S	032°01.16 E	531 M
25.	25°59 86 S	032°01.20 E	522 M
26.	25°59 88 S	032°01.25 E	513 M
27.	25°59 92 S	032°01.37 E	472 M
28.	25°59 94 S	032°01.44 E	460 M
29.	25°59 96 S	032°01.50 E	473 M
30.	25°59 99 S	032°01.55 E	478 M