

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION

23 JUNE 2015

PART 1 : Introduction

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation is to intensify efforts, particularly those outlined in the Maputo Action Plan, to ensure that Article 5 is fully implemented as soon as possible, while acknowledging local, national and regional circumstances in its practical implementation.
2. At the Maputo Review Conference, it was agreed that the Committee will fulfil its purpose by providing feedback to States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, with the opportunity to do so in part resting with the Committee's mandate to present preliminary observations at intersessional meetings if need be pursuant to a review of relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties. As well, the Committee is mandated to prepare and submit to the States Parties in advance of Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences an analysis of each request for an Article 5 extended deadline. In addition, the Committee is intended to ensure that a cooperative engagement of Article 5 implementing States Parties continues after requests have been granted.
3. The Maputo Review Conference also mandated the Committee to remain transparent and accountable. In this spirit, the Committee presents this report and preliminary observations to the intersessional meeting.

II. Activities

4. The Committee met for the first time in September 2014 and has met at least twice monthly, on average, ever since. On 12 December 2014, the Committee held a briefing for the States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5 to inform them of the Committee's purpose and mandate and how the Committee intends to fulfil its mandate. The Committee called on the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to advise these States Parties on how they may wish to provide information in accordance with Maputo Action Plan commitments, with it noted that these commitments to provide information on mine clearance and the Convention's reporting requirements are closely related. The Committee, on 18 December 2014, wrote in follow-up to this briefing to provide information in writing to all relevant delegations.
5. The Committee's cooperative engagement continued in February 2015 in Geneva when, on the margins of the United Nations' annual meeting of mine action directors, the Committee met, including in bilateral meetings, representatives of eight States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, including with several national mine action directors.
6. On 2 March 2015, the Committee wrote to the States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations to recall the 30 April deadline for providing updated information on implementation in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee also informed these States Parties regarding how the Committee would proceed in preparing preliminary observations for the intersessional meetings.

7. The Committee undertook a variety of efforts with a view to building the capacity and knowledge of its Members. On 21 November 2014, Committee Members took part in a half-day information session organized by the Implementation Support Unit, which featured in-depth briefings on the mine clearance aspects of the Convention and training on non-technical survey provided by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. In addition, the Committee engaged demining operators, meeting with the HALO Trust on 13 January 2015, with Norwegian People's Aid on 17 February 2015, and with the Mines Advisory Group on 18 February 2015. The Committee and individual Members also maintained regular contact with the ICBL.
8. In preparing preliminary observations, in some instances, the Committee was impeded by the late submission of information by some States Parties.

III. Methodology

9. In line with its purpose of intensifying efforts to ensure the full implementation of Article 5, the Committee gave particular attention on the following aspects of the Maputo Action Plan:
 - a. The Maputo Action Plan calls for increased **clarity** regarding remaining implementation challenges, with this clarity encouraged through Article 7 reports, Article 5 extension requests and information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests.
 - b. The Maputo Action Plan, by calling for increased clarity, supports improvements in the **measurability** of Article 5 implementation over time, with improvements in the quality of information permitting greater understanding and comparability.
 - c. The Maputo Action Plan emphasises **efficient and expedient implementation** with commitments to apply the most relevant land-release standards and methodologies.
10. Given the subject matter covered in Actions #8 to #11, the Committee proceeded in preparing on the following matters:
 - Clarity regarding remaining challenges
 - Progress in implementation
 - National plans for clearance and survey
 - The application of land release standards, policies and methodologies
 - Actions taken related to commitments in extension requests and decisions on requests
 - Mine risk reduction efforts
11. The Committee is mandated to “review relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties, including in the context of Article 7 obligations and on efforts undertaken under Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance.” In preparing its observations, Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties in 2015 in the context of Article 7 reporting, information contained in requests for extended deadlines that were submitted in 2015, and any additional information provided in writing by States Parties on Article 5 implementation.
12. In reviewing information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation, the Committee noted different degrees of clarity regarding the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. As a result, the Committee has used terminology in its preliminary observations in the following manner:

- a. “High degree of clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and 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.
- b. “Clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions / provinces / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.
- c. “Some clarity” has been used some clarity when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

IV. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation

13. At the close of the Maputo Review Conference, 31 States Parties had reported that they were still in the process of implementing Article 5 of the Convention. Of these, the following provided information:

- a. 18 States Parties submitted updated information in 2015 on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas in accordance with obligations under Article 5: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia¹, Cyprus, Ecuador, Iraq², Mauritania, Mozambique, Peru, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- b. 2 States Parties – Mozambique and the United Kingdom – made additional information available on Article 5 implementation.
- c. 1 State Party – Turkey – provided information pursuant to decisions taken on Turkey’s request for extended deadline.
- d. 3 States Parties – Cyprus, Ethiopia and Mauritania – submitted requests for extended mine clearance deadlines with these requests containing information on Article 5 implementation.

14. Of the 31 States Parties, which as of close of the Maputo Review Conference had reported that they were still in the process of implementing Article 5 of the Convention, as of 15 June 2015, 13 did not submit this year updated information to the Convention’s depository on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas: Angola, Argentina, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

¹ While the Committee understands that Croatia submitted updated information to the Convention’s depository on 1 June 2015, this information has not yet been made available and, therefore, the Committee was unable prepare preliminary observations on Croatia’s efforts to implement Article 5.

² The Committee welcomed the fact that Iraq had provided updated information this year in a timely manner on Article 5 implementation. The Committee regrets that it did not yet have an opportunity to prepare preliminary observations on the information provided by Iraq as the Committee has not yet obtained a working translation of this information.

PART 2: PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

I. OBSERVATIONS OF A GENERAL NATURE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5

1. The Committee observed that, of the 31 States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, few have reported that they have a plan to complete implementation of Article 5, some have plans that extend beyond their deadlines and many have not indicated that they have plans leading up to their deadlines.
2. The Committee observed that additional clarity on remaining Article 5 challenges, expressed in accordance with commitments made in the Maputo Action Plan, would be welcome from many States Parties. The Committee further observed that, for some States Parties, there is significant scope for improvements in clarity. The Committee observed that such clarity could greatly improve measurability over time and assist all States Parties in knowing, at an early stage, whether States Parties either are on track to complete implementation as planned or are encountering challenges in doing so.
3. The Committee observed that, of those States Parties that provided the greatest clarity generally were States Parties that received and made use of advice and support from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU). In addition, many that provided the greatest clarity implemented ways and means of reporting as contained in the President's draft guide to reporting, thus highlighting the value of guidance that updates and consolidates the States Parties decisions on Article 5 reporting. The Committee observed the importance of the ISU being provided with the resources to provided States Parties with sufficient support to fulfil their Maputo Action Plan commitments. The Committee further observed that the President's draft guide to reporting could provide a useful basis for advising States on effectively reporting on the implementation of Article 5.
4. The Committee observed that, while several States Parties have indicated that they are carrying out land release in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), these indications often were made and / or refer to national standards established prior to significant amendments to the IMAS on land release having been made on 1 March 2013.
5. The Committee observed that any additional information provided by States Parties by 31 August 2015 with respect to the Committee's observations would assist the Committee in preparing its conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY AFGHANISTAN

Progress in implementation

1. Afghanistan reported that, in 2014, it released 161 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing a total 27,456,673 square meters and destroying 12,684 anti-personnel mines. The Committee further observed that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Afghanistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2012 extension request. In this regard, the Committee observed that between 30 June 2012 and 31 December 2014, the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been reduced from 3,847 to 2,685 and the amount of area reduced from 289,400,000 square meters to 221,944,806 square meters.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to seven regions of the country. This list included the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Afghanistan reported that, as of the end of 2014, 2,348 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and 337 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling 221,944,806 square metres, remained to be addressed.
4. The Committee also observed that Afghanistan included areas in which IEDs are recorded as having been abandoned as part of its remaining Article 5 challenge.
5. Afghanistan also reported that the nationwide non-technical survey planned for the first two years of the extension request is ongoing with the aim of visiting all the recorded and unrecorded impacted communities for further validation of previous surveys. Afghanistan further reported that, as of December 2014, a total of 831 previously unknown hazards totalling 38.1 square kilometres had been identified. The Committee observed that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge will be further clarified and that Afghanistan would continue to be in a position to more precisely clarify the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

National plans for clearance and survey

6. Afghanistan provided a detailed plan in its 2012 extension request leading towards completion with this clearly indicating what geographically and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that, while progress has greatly surpassed that expected in the plan contained in the extension request, since the time of the request, Afghanistan has identified an additional 831 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 38.1 square kilometres.
7. Afghanistan indicated in its extension request that it would annually reviews its work plan and make any necessary adjustment. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had provided an updated projection of the number of areas and amount of area to be cleared and reduced in each region and in each year between 2015 and 2022. Afghanistan also reported on other

changes that had been made to its work plan on the basis of new information obtained. The Committee observed 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 (2,079) and amount of area (196,089,000 square meters) fall short of the number of areas (2,348) and amount of area (221,944,806 square meters) that Afghanistan has reported as remaining to be addressed.

8. In its extension request, Afghanistan reported that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, it faced challenges associated with anti-vehicle mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). In this regard, the Committee observed that Afghanistan's efforts to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Afghanistan.

Efficient and expedient implementation

9. In its 2012 extension request, Afghanistan provided a detailed description of its land release methods noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. The Committee observed that, since Afghanistan submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches that could further accelerate implementation.

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

10. The Committee observed that Afghanistan was acting upon the decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) which request Afghanistan to regularly inform the States Parties of non-technical survey and "village by village search" efforts, revisions to its work plan and reasons for these revisions. The Committee further observed that Afghanistan had reported in 2015 in such a way that there was a high degree of comparability with respect to annual milestones for progress provided in its extension request.

Mine risk reduction

11. 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. This has included ensuring appropriate marking of hazardous areas is carried out as well as providing mine risk education to people living in the mine and other ERW impacted communities, returnees and internal displaced people. This is done through diverse methods including visits to communities, the media, UNHCR transit centres, mini-circus for children and cooperation with the Ministry of Education to include MRE in school curriculums.

III. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ALGERIA

Progress in implementation

1. Algeria reported that, in 2014 and in the first trimester of 2015, it released 14 areas totalling known to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing approximately 11,871.1 square kilometres and destroying 53,145 anti-personnel mines. In total since 2008, Algeria has released 51 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing approximately 80,568.62 square kilometres and destroying 695,488 anti-personnel mines.

2. The Committee, while noting that Algeria had reported having released a significant amount of area, observed that the information provided by it on progress in implementation did not permit comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2011 extension request. The Committee observed in particular that progress in implementation relative to the projected milestones in its extension request would be welcomed. While Algeria has provided the size of the areas addressed and the quantity of anti-personnel mines destroyed since the entry into force of the Convention, the Committee observed that it is unclear how many and which areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have actually been addressed.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee observed that while Algeria has provided some clarity concerning its remaining challenge, Algeria could significantly increase clarity by providing information on the location and size of each remaining area that is known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in a manner similar to that provide in its 2011 extension request.

National plans for clearance and survey

4. In its 2011 extension request, Algeria provided a comprehensive work plan leading towards completion of its 1 April 2017 deadline. This plan provides a list of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines broken down by region. The length, estimated size, and geographic location. The Committee observed that, given the difficulty in comparing information reported with the plan contained in Algeria's extension request, it was difficult to understand if Algeria was progressing in a manner consistent with this plan.

Efficient and expedient implementation

5. In its 2011 extension request, Algeria indicated that clearance operations carried out by its armed forces are mainly conducted using manual clearance methods. Algeria further indicated that although manual clearance is a slow process, it has been chosen over mechanical clearance because it is more reliable and because of the mountainous and rocky nature of the areas to be addressed in Algeria. The Committee observed that Algeria may benefit in 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 United Nations' International Mine Action Standards, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.

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

6. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) noted that the annual milestones of progress to be achieved, which Algeria included in its extension request, would greatly assist Parties in assessing progress during the extension period and that reporting relative to these milestones would be of benefit.

Mine risk reduction

7. Algeria reported 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 for people near suspected areas in order to promote safe behaviour amongst the population. In addition, Algeria further reported that marking of minefields is not always possible due to the security situation.

IV. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Progress in implementation

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that, in 2014, the 42 square kilometres of “mine suspect area” was released, including 11.97 square kilometres of “mine risk area” having been released (10.12 square kilometres as a result of technical survey and 1.85 square kilometres through clearance operations), 8.33 square kilometers having been declared as “area without defined risk” following “general survey operations” and 21.8 square kilometres “reduced” through “systematic survey operations.” Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that it had found and destroyed 1,901 anti-personnel mines in 2014. Bosnia and Herzegovina’s report implies that 396.6 square kilometres of “suspect area” has been released since Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its request for an extended deadline in 2008.
2. The Committee observed that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Bosnia and Herzegovina used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according the result of each activity (i.e., land that is cancelled, reduced or cleared).

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 19,182 “minefield records” totalling 1,176.5 square kilometres of suspected hazardous area remain to be addressed, with the number of “minefield records” and the amount of area disaggregated according to 13 administrative levels. In addition, Bosnia and Herzegovina further disaggregated the amount of suspected hazardous area according to “I category”, “II category” and “III category” land. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that it estimates that 345 square kilometres is known to contain anti-personnel mines.
4. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina could significantly increase clarity, by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.” The Committee observed that greater clarity could result in using terminology that is consistent with the IMAS, such as “suspected hazardous area” and “confirmed hazardous area”.

National plans for clearance and survey

5. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a summary of its plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline. That plan indicated how much area, aggregated to the national level, would be released each year according to various activities. According to this plan, Bosnia and Herzegovina should have released 1,013.9 square kilometres during the period 2009 to 2014 and that 541.1 square kilometres would remain as of the end of 2014. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had released considerably less area than it had projected in its extension request.
6. The Committee observed that the pace of implementation warranted a revision to Bosnia and Herzegovina’s plans for clearance and survey. The Committee further observed that information

would be welcomed on updated projections of areas and area to be released according to clearance, technical survey and survey for the remaining years leading to Bosnia and Herzegovina's 1 March 2019 deadline.

Efficient and expedient implementation

7. In its 2008 extension request, Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee observed that, since Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. In this context, the Committee observed that information on enhancements that Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcomed.

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

8. The Committee, in recalling that Bosnia and Herzegovina committed in its 2008 extension request to carry out the second revision of its mine action strategy in 2015, observed the detailed revision, consistent with the terminology and methods contained in the IMAS, would be welcomed.
9. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (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, an ongoing, although decreasing, high level of donor funding and the initiation of and thereafter constantly increased funds provided by local governments. The Committee observed that increased clarity on how these factors may be affecting implementation would be welcomed.
10. The Committee also recalled that the 9MSP noted the importance of clarity on the part of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding which areas of what size and at what locations remain to be addressed in each administrative area. The Committee observed that increased clarity on remaining mined areas, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, would be welcomed.

Mine risk reduction

11. Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 marking and mine risk education programmes and the creation and distribution of mine situation maps. In addition, in 2014, 5.38 square kilometres of additional area known suspected to contain anti-personnel mines was marked with 906 individual signs. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that, in 2014, there were 9 accidents involving mines (including one that occurred during demining) and that six individuals were killed and 10 injured.

V. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CAMBODIA

Progress in implementation

1. Cambodia reported that, in 2014, five demining operators combined cleared 182,095,237 square kilometres and destroyed 21,650 anti-personnel mines. The Committee observed that, given the extraordinarily large amount of area reported having been “cleared”, clarifications regarding the unit used (i.e., square kilometres) and / or whether the totality of the area indeed had been cleared (rather than had been reduced or cancelled) would be welcomed.
2. The Committee observed that that progress in implementation could be significantly clarified if Cambodia presented information in such a way that it could be compared with information previously provided by Cambodia and disaggregated according to land that is cancelled, reduced or cleared. The Committee observed, in particular, that providing information that allowed for measurability on a geographic basis over time could result if Cambodia reported in a manner that permitted comparability with its “Report on the Results of the Baseline Survey in 124 Districts.”

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. Cambodia indicated that there are areas located in the North-Western Province of Cambodia that are known and suspected to contain mines. Cambodia also reported that the Baseline Survey carried out from 2009-2014 revealed a total of 15,172 polygons measuring 1,866,207,895 square meters as areas suspected to contain mines/ERW and that of these, 11,967 polygons with an areas of 1,071,383,958 square meters are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee observed that the amount of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as a result of the Baseline Survey is significantly greater than that which Cambodia anticipated prior to carrying out this survey.
4. The Committee observed that Cambodia could increase clarity concerning its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining mined areas to be addressed and disaggregating this by areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

National plans for clearance and survey

5. Cambodia provided a detailed 4 year work plan in its 2009 extension request as well as expected clearance productivity rates and costs over the extension period leading towards its 1 January 2020 deadline. The Committee observed that it was not possible to determine if Cambodia was on track to implement Article 5 in a manner consistent with this work plan. The Committee further observed that, given that the Baseline Survey resulted in significantly more area having been identified than anticipated, an updated work plan would be welcomed with this detailing detailed geographically specific milestones to be achieved in the years leading to Cambodia’s in 2020.

Efficient and expedient implementation

6. In its 2009 extension request, Cambodia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee observed that, since Cambodia submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee further recalled that, given the sizeable increase in area identified by the Baseline Survey and the extraordinarily large

amount of area reported having been addressed in 2014, any additional information would be welcomed on methods used to reduce or cancel areas.

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

7. The Committee observed that Cambodia had acted upon the commitment made in its extension request to carry out the Baseline Survey and report the findings to the States Parties. The Committee further observed that it would welcome, as per the decision on Cambodia's request, if Cambodia could provide, based on the results of the baseline survey, a single national updated work plan, schedule and budget leading towards its extension deadline of 1 January 2020 taking into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators.

Mine risk reduction

8. Cambodia 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, including through mine risk education programs. Cambodia has reported that while these activities are awareness raising their focus is on risk avoidance. Cambodia provided information on its overall strategy as well as the efforts put forth by its partners. Cambodia reported that, in 2014, 154 people were reported killed or injured by mines or other explosive remnants of war.

VI. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CHAD

Progress in implementation

1. Chad reported that, in 2014, 11 anti-personnel mines were destroyed and demining activities were carried out in Zouar, Zouarké, Ogui and Bardaï as well as on the Sahr-Kyabé axis. The Committee, in recalling the detailed list of 113 remaining mined contained in Chad's May 2014 provisional plan of action 2014-2019, observed that Chad could significantly clarify progress in implementation by reporting in a manner that permitted comparability with the information in this plan. The Committee further observed that reporting on progress would be welcomed according to land that is cancelled, reduced or cleared, in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

2. The Committee recalled that Chad, in its provisional plan of action 2014-2019, indicated that, as May 2014, 113 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 104,542,233 square metres remained to be addressed. The Committee observed that Chad's 2015 report, while indicating that some demining activity had taken place in 2014, did not provide updated clarity on Chad's remaining challenge relative to the information contained in its plan.
3. The Committee also recalled that Chad's provisional plan of action 2014-2019 indicated that not all of Chad's territory has been covered in the plan, with the northern part of the Tibesti region remaining to be surveyed. The Committee observed that additional information would be welcomed on efforts by Chad to survey and identify mined areas.

National plans for clearance and survey

4. Further to the decisions of the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP), Chad, in May 2014, provided a provisional plan leading towards completion by its 1 January 2020 deadline, with this plan summarising which activities (i.e., non-technical survey, survey and clearance) would be take place in each region during various periods of time leading to 1 December 2019, and at what cost. The Committee observed that more specific annual projections of areas and area to be released for the remaining years leading to Chad's deadline would be welcomed.
5. The Committee recalled that the risk factors mentioned in Chad's provisions plan, including political stability and security, remain factors that may affect the implementation of Chad's plan for completion. The Committee further observed that information acquired from surveys will affect implementation of the Chad's plan.
6. The Committee observed that success in implementing Chad's provisional plan assumes that Chad will mobilise significantly more external resources than in the recent past. In this context, the Committee observed that information would be welcomed on Chad's efforts to mobilise resources and the results of these efforts.

Efficient and expedient implementation

7. In its 2013 extension request, Chad described its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee observed 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 observed that the application of the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, pursuant to Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan, would be particularly important in Chad given the large amount of area that remains to be addressed.

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

8. As noted, further to the decisions of the 2013 13MSP, Chad, in May 2014, provided a provisional plan leading towards completion by its 1 January 2020 deadline. The Committee recalled that, in addition to this decision, the 13MSP requested Chad to inform the States Parties, by the end of 2015, of the results of its mid-term evaluation of its strategy, including if necessary, providing an updated strategy that takes into account new information. The Committee further recalled that the 13MSP requested that that Chad inform States Parties, on an annual basis on the following:
 - a. 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 nontechnical survey;
 - b. Efforts to diversify funding sources and to reach out to other relevant parts of the government to contribute to covering the costs of implementing Chad's national plans for survey and mine clearance;
 - c. Efforts undertaken to address inadequacies in the management of mine action information; and,
 - d. Whether circumstances which had previously impeded the timely implementation of the Convention were continuing to affect the fulfilment of Chad's obligations.

Mine risk reduction

9. Chad reported 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. The Committee observed that Chad had provided information on the beneficiaries of these actions disaggregated according to gender and age. In addition, Chad reported that, since 2010, an effort has been made to mark areas, with 17,000,000 square metres being marked, primarily during technical surveys.
10. Chad reported that, in 2014, there 19 incidents involving mines or other explosive remnants of war resulting in 14 individuals killed and 56 injured. The Committee observed that the information on casualties provided by Chad was gender and age disaggregated.

VII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY COLOMBIA

Progress in implementation

1. Colombia reported that, in 2014, it carried out non-technical survey and clearance in 15 municipalities addressing a total of 543,943 square meters and destroying a total of 240 “artefacts”. Colombia further reported that, in 2014, the municipality of San Francisco became the fourth municipality to be declared “free of suspicion of anti-personnel mines” following non-technical survey and clearance operations. Since Colombia submitted its request for an extended deadline in 2010, Colombia has addressed a total of 1,651,751.74 square meters resulting in a total of four municipalities being declared “free of suspicion of anti-personnel mines” (San Carlos, El Dorado, San Francisco and Zambrano). In addition since Colombia submitted its request, Colombia has completed clearance of mined areas surrounding military bases, releasing 47,831.84 square meters.
2. The Committee observed that, as Colombia progressively obtains more clarity regarding its remaining challenge and is able to develop plans accordingly, greater measurability of progress in implementation over time will be possible.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. Colombia reported that, as a result of the manner in which anti-personnel mines have been used and continue to be used, and ongoing conflict, it is not possible to provide clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee observed that as Colombia progressively identifies districts and regions where Convention implementation may proceed, information related to increased clarity regarding its remaining challenge would be welcomed.
4. The Committee observed that Colombia had reported “events” (i.e., accidents or incidents related to anti-personnel mines or other explosive devices) rather than areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Colombia reported that “events” are subject to non-technical survey, which results in either areas being cancelled or classified as confirmed hazardous areas. Colombia reported that of 22,525 “events” recorded between 2006 and 2014, a total of 3,355 have been closed, 19,124 remain open and 45 are currently undergoing non-technical survey.

5. The Committee observed that Colombia had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table listing, for each Colombian department, the number of events and their status. The Committee observed that additional information would be welcomed on the size and location of “events” that have been reclassified, as noted in Action # 8 of the Maputo Action Plan, as those that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance or those that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.

National plans for clearance and survey

6. Colombia provided a list of 92 municipalities that have been prioritized for non-technical survey operations and humanitarian demining operations. Colombia further reported that under Colombia’s National Standards on Task Assignment, municipalities need to provide approval and demonstrate willingness to support humanitarian demining efforts and that, over the course of 2014, agreements has been reached with 57 municipalities, with Colombia having provided a list of these communities and the dates when agreements had been signed.
7. The Committee observed that the information provided by Colombia implies that, of the 92 municipalities that have been prioritised, work is ongoing in 7 municipalities in Department of Antioquia (Carmen de Viboral, Cocorná, Granada, La Unión, Nariño, San Rafael, and Sonsón), 4 municipalities in the Department of Bolivar (Córdoba, El Carmen de Bolivar, San Jacinto and San Juan Pepomuceno), 1 municipality in the Department of Caldas (Samaná) and 2 municipalities in the Department of Santander (Sabana de Torres and San Vicente de Chucuri).
8. Colombia’s report referred to its National Demining Plan 2014-2016, which had been presented to the 2014 Third Review Conference. The Committee observed that, given updated information obtained by Colombia since that time as well as the importance of reporting quantifying and qualifying the implementation challenge, more information on Colombia’s plans in coming years would be welcomed.

Efficient and expedient implementation

9. In its National Demining Plan, Colombia reported that it undertakes activities in accordance with the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and that Colombia makes use of, in a linear manner, non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.

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

10. The Committee recalled that the 2010 Tenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested that Colombia submit to the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) a revised implementation plan that contains and takes into account a clearer and more substantiated understanding of the location and nature of contamination and that includes revised annual projections of which areas would be addressed when and how. In this context, the Committee observed that, while Colombia had submitted an updated plan covering the period 2014-2016 to the 2014 Third Review Conference, additional information on which areas would be addressed when and how would still be welcomed.
11. The Committee observed that, by having provided a table listing 57 municipalities within which humanitarian demining efforts may proceed, Colombia was acting in a manner consistent with the decision of the 10MSP, which requested that Colombia inform the States Parties of areas where necessary security conditions permit humanitarian demining tasks to be carried out.

12. In recalling that the 11MSP noted that Colombia could benefit from developing as soon as possible a resource mobilisation strategy which included clarity regarding its national commitment during the extension period, the Committee observed that Colombia's national plan indicates that a working group was established to promote international cooperation and assistance.

Mine risk reduction

13. Colombia reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including by carrying out mine risk education efforts with a special focus on boys, girls, youth, indigenous communities, Afro-Colombian communities and other individuals with special constitutional protection. Colombia also reported that it is developing emergency mine risk education methodologies.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CYPRUS

Progress in implementation

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

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

2. Cyprus reported that there are no areas under the effective control of Cyprus that are known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Cyprus further reported that there are or may be 49 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in areas outside of its effective control and that Cyprus is not aware of the status of these mined areas. The Committee observed that 28 of these areas in question involve mines emplaced by Cyprus' National Guard prior to entry into force of the Convention. As such, the Committee observed that Cyprus may be in a position to report, in accordance with Article 7, on the location of these mined areas and include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area.

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

3. 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.

IX. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ECUADOR

Progress in implementation

1. Initially, in 1999, Ecuador reported 128 areas totalling 621,035 square meters. On the basis of additional information obtained by Ecuador from surveys and information exchanges between Peru and Ecuador, the number of areas requiring clearance was adjusted to 182 totalled and amount of area adjusted to 619,369.38 square meters.
2. Ecuador reported that, 2014, it cleared 39,660.5 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and having otherwise released 47,744.5 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 87,405 square meters addressed. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Ecuador in 1999, Ecuador has addressed 160 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 411,240.38 square meters.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further observed that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), the types and quantity of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Ecuador reported that, as of the end of 2014, 14 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and 8 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling 208,129 square metres, remained to be addressed.

National plans for clearance and survey

5. Ecuador provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 October 2017 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographically and quantified results are expected when, how and by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that Ecuador had cleared or otherwise released more areas than had been forecast in its extension request. The Committee further observed that Ecuador has a plan leading to completion by its deadline, with 16 areas and part of a 17th area totalling 83,340 square meters to be released in 2015, two (2) areas and part of a 3rd area totalling 80,732 to be released in 2016, and three (3) areas and part of a 4th area totalling 44,057 square meters to be released in 2017.
6. Ecuador reported that one area known to contain anti-personnel mines that totals 43,500 square meters is located in territory handed over by Peru as “private property” of Ecuador as stipulated in the “Brasilia Presidential Act”. Ecuador further reported that demining operations in this area are subject to bilateral agreements between Ecuador and Peru concerning timeframes, budgets and the employment of the binational demining unit. The Committee observed that further clarity would be welcomed regarding how the status of this area may affect implementation.

Efficient and expedient implementation

7. In its 2008 extension request, Ecuador provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Manual on Technical Survey Procedure of Ecuador and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. The Committee observed that, since Ecuador submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.

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

8. The Committee observed that Ecuador was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request to proceed with implementation at a constant rate through the extension period. Ecuador's request also indicated that there would be a 100%+ increase in financing and increases in demining capacity relative to what was the case prior to the request having been made. The Committee observed that, while Ecuador's reporting did not specify changes to funding and demining capacity, Ecuador was proceeding a manner that suggested that sufficient funding and capacity were in place.

Mine risk reduction

9. Ecuador 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, including through mine risk education programs. Ecuador reported that the objectives of these efforts are not solely to prevent injury or death, promoting safe behaviour, but also to find solutions to risky behaviour observed in some affected communities. Ecuador further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2014.

X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY MAURITANIA

Progress in implementation

1. Initially, in 2001, Mauritania reported 34 areas totalling 87,725,000 square meters. On the basis of additional information obtained by Mauritania, the number of areas requiring clearance was adjusted to 56 and the amount of area adjusted to 90,017,026 square meters.
2. Mauritania reported that, in 2014, it addressed a total of 1,886,099 square meters of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines identifying and destroying in the process 46 anti-personnel mines, 10 anti-vehicle mines and 4 pieces of unexploded ordnance. In total since Mauritania submitted its request for extension in 2010, it cleared 62,954,375 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and having otherwise released 3,978,391 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 66,932,766 square meters addressed. Since entry into force of the Convention for Mauritania in 2001, it has addressed all 56 areas having cleared 67,111,766 square meters and otherwise addressed 22,905,260 square meters.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Mauritania on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2010 extension request. The Committee further observed that this information

was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. Mauritania reported that it has addressed all areas known to contain anti-personnel mines. Mauritania further reported that it suspects that mined areas, initially presumed to be within the territory of Western Sahara, may in fact be located in the territory of Mauritania. Mauritania indicated that that this uncertainty stems from the fact that there are no natural borders and that border demarcation is unclear and sometimes non-existent. Mauritania further reported that the complexity of the political context in Western Sahara complicates the matter of being able to assess whether additional mined areas exist in Mauritania. The Committee observed that additional clarity on the locations of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines would be welcomed.

National plans for clearance and survey

5. Mauritania provided in its 2015 extension request activities to be undertaken during the 5 year requested extension to address the suspicion of additional mined areas. Mauritanian indicated that, amongst other things, this would include initiating dialogue with all stakeholders to clarify the situation along the border and maintaining a national capacity to carry out humanitarian demining efforts.

Efficient and expedient implementation

6. In its 2015 extension request, Mauritania provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards which are in conformity with the United Nations Mine Action Standards but adapted to the context in Mauritania.

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

7. The Committee observed that Mauritania had acted upon its commitments made in its extension request by addressing all areas within its plan. The Committee further observed that Mauritania had acted upon its commitment to provide information disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey.

Mine risk reduction

8. Mauritania reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. These include mine risk education programmes Mauritania provided to schools and nomad communities and messages disseminated through media. Mauritania further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2014.

XI. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY MOZAMBIQUE

Progress in implementation

1. Mozambique reported that, in 2014, a total of 135 sites totalling 6,329,138 square meters of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas were cleared or released through survey and demining resulting in the destruction of 45,650 anti-personnel mines, 6 anti-vehicle mines and 221 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that, while Mozambique had missed its 31 December 2014 deadline to complete implementation of Article 5, all that remained as of that date were 56 demining tasks totalling approximately 289,000 square meters. The Committee observed while adhering to deadlines is important, Mozambique had made a significant accomplishment in clearing or otherwise releasing, over the course of the past seven years, more than 42 million square meters of land known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee also observed that Mozambique had acted in highly transparent manner in informing the States Parties that it has missed its deadline and of what Mozambique's plans were to complete implementation as soon as possible.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee observed that Mozambique had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area") and information on the geographic location of each area. Mozambique reported that, as of the 20 April 2014, 17 areas totalling 34,900 square meters remained to be addressed.

National plans for clearance and survey

4. On 17 February 2015, Mozambique provided to the States Parties, through the Committee Chair, a detailed plan leading to completion. Mozambique subsequently provided an update on this plan, indicating that, at present, the remaining 17 tasks are currently inaccessible due to high water levels and that demining activities are prevented from taking place until the dry season. Mozambique further reported that it is monitoring the water level and hopes to dispatch a team once the areas are dry enough to complete additional technical survey and clearance. Mozambique reported that it is optimistic that these areas could be addressed no later than by the end of November 2015. The Committee observed that it would be important that Mozambique continued to keep the States Parties informed of its progress to complete implementation.

Efficient and expedient implementation

5. Mozambique, in its 2013 request for an extended deadline, indicated that it uses a combination of non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance to release areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

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

6. The Committee recalled that Mozambique's 2013 request for an extended deadline foreshadowed that its remaining challenge "included particular challenging areas."

Mine risk reduction

7. Mozambique 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. Mozambique indicated that mine risk education officials are instructed to educate people on the danger caused by mines and changing behaviours and attitudes in order to prevent accidents. Mozambique further reported that a total of 6 landmine and UXO accidents were registered in 2014. Three of the recorded accidents occurred during demining operations injuring 3 male deminers. Two separate landmine accidents injured a civilian woman and girl and 1 UXO accident injured 3 children.

XII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY PERU

Progress in implementation

1. Peru reported that, in 2014, it destroyed 452 mines in Objective PV2_05. The Committee observed that the information on the amount of area cleared, reduced and / or cancelled by Peru would be welcomed. The Committee further observed the information provided by Peru on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. In this regard, the Committee observed that information would be welcomed on progress made relative to the remaining challenge that was expressed in its extension request.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

2. Peru provided a list of 147 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines along its border with Ecuador "Cordillera del Cóndor", with this list including the types and quantities of emplaced mines and the date of their emplacement, but without the size or estimated size of each area or clarity regarding whether each of these areas remained to be addressed by Peru in the context of its implementation of Article 5.
3. The Committee observed that greater clarity regarding Peru's remaining challenge would be welcomed, by Peru, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, quantifying and qualifying its remaining implementation challenge, with this information including the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.

National plans for clearance and survey

4. Peru provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2017 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographically and quantified results were expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that, with Peru's deadline approaching, updated information on Peru's plan to complete implementation of Article 5 would be welcomed, with this plan indicating what geographically and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost.

Efficient and expedient implementation

5. In its 2008 extension request, Peru provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Manual of Procedures for Humanitarian Demining of the Republic of Peru developed in 2004, which was based on the IMAS. The Committee observed that, since Peru submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.

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

6. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) noted a commitment on the part of Peru to proceed to implement Article 5 at a more constant rate through the extension period. In this context, the Committee observed that additional information would be welcomed on the rate of implementation by Peru and whether, as noted by the 9MSP, "using all resources and techniques available", Peru "could be in a position to proceed with the implementation much faster than suggested" by its extension request.

Mine risk reduction

7. Peru reported 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. Peru further reported that in 2014 there was one new anti-personnel mine casualty, with a deminer injured.

XIII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SERBIA

1. While initially in 2004 Serbia had reported 44 areas totalling 5,906,791 square meters, the number of areas increased to 68 and amount of area increased to 9,372,006 square meters on the basis of additional information obtained by Serbia from surveys.
2. Serbia reported that, in 2014, it cleared 270,616 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and having otherwise released 106,000 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 376,616 square meters addressed. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Serbia in 2004, Serbia has addressed 49 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 6,447,426 square meters.
3. The Committee observed 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 observed that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed that Serbia had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to 10 localities. This table includes the number of areas and the amount area in each locality and the status of the area (i.e., all areas are considered "suspected"). Serbia reported that, as of the end of 2014, 19 suspected hazardous areas totalling 2,849,126 square metres remained to be addressed. This included area in Bujanovac that had been reclassified

from confirmed hazardous area to suspected hazardous area to ensure that the area is addressed by the most cost effective means.

5. The Committee observed that Serbia could increase clarity on its remaining challenge by if possible annexing a table to its Article 7 report which includes details on each suspected hazardous area to contain mines.

National plans for clearance and survey

6. Serbia provided a plan in its 2013 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographically and quantified results are expected where, when, how, by whom and at what cost. In 2015, Serbia reported that it had adjusted its plan, with it projected that, of the remaining 2,849,126 square meters of suspected hazardous area, approximately 1,600,000 square meters will be cleared and 1,200,000 square meters released following surveys. Serbia reported that 400,000 square meters will be cleared in 2015, 1,649,126 square meters surveyed and 600,000 square meters cleared in 2016, and 600,000 square meters expected to be cleared in 2017. The Committee observed that Serbia had a plan to achieve completion well before its extended deadline.

Efficient and expedient implementation

7. In its 2013 extension request, Serbia provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In its 2015 report, Serbia provided a further description of the approach it is taking to land release, which appears to take into account the emphasis that the IMAS places on the need for evidence to define areas as either confirmed or suspected hazardous areas.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Serbia keep the States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia's national financial contribution to implementation, efforts to mobilise external resources, and the results of these efforts. Serbia reported that in 2014 it received funds from the United States of America through the International Trust Fund (ITF).
9. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP, in noting that all survey activities were scheduled to be complete by the end of 2015, requested that Serbia submit to the States Parties, by 1 March 2016, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee, while noting that Serbia had reported, in 2015, a plan leading to completion by end of 2017, observed that providing an updated plan in 2016 would still be welcomed in order to keep the States Parties apprised of any changing circumstances.

Mine risk reduction

10. Serbia has reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine risk education programs. Serbia reported that, in accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, people are evacuated and traffic is suspended, and that this is coordinated with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies.

XIV. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SUDAN

Progress in implementation

1. Sudan reported that, in 2014, it addressed a total of 3,653,104 square meters or area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 2,469,368 square meters cleared, 898,524 square meters reduced and 285,212 square meters cancelled. Sudan further reported that, in 2014, it had addressed a total of 17 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and had destroyed 171 anti-personnel mines, 95 anti-vehicle mines and 2,976 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further observed that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with previous recommendations endorsed by the States Parties. The Committee also observed that clarifications would be welcomed with respect to some minor discrepancies in the information provided by Sudan on the status of programmes for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee observed that Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and 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. Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2014, 58 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,889,180 square meters and 50 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 18’115’237 square metres remained to be addressed.
4. The Committee observed that the outcomes of survey efforts in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states could result in additional clarity regarding Sudan’s remaining implementation challenge.

National plans for clearance and survey

5. Sudan provided a detailed plan in its 2013 extension request cover the period 2013-2015 and projections of the number of areas and amount of area to be released each year from 2013 to 2019, leading towards completion by Sudan’s 1 April 2019 deadline. Sudan, in its 2015 report, provided a revised number of areas per state that it intends to address during the period 2015 to 2019. The Committee observed that the information provided by Sudan on its national plans for clearance and survey supported comparability of information from year to year and allowed for clarity regarding the implementation relative to Sudan’s plan. The Committee further observed that Sudan’s ambition to address 61 areas in 2015 was greatly in excess of the pace of implementation in the recent past.
6. The Committee observed that Sudan had cleared or otherwise released fewer areas and less area than had been forecast in its extension request. The Committee observed that, given that fewer areas and less area have been released than was anticipated in the plan and given that Sudan has reported having had to address additional hazards since the 2013 plan was presented, any updates regarding Sudan’s plan to complete implementation of Article 5 would be welcomed.

Efficient and expedient implementation

7. In its 2013 extension request, Sudan provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. In its 2015 report, Sudan provided additional detail on its land release process. The Committee observed that, as Sudan has reported that it is reviewing its national technical standards, Sudan may, in the near-future, be able to provide additional information on the application of the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, pursuant to Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan.

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

8. The Committee recalled that Sudan had been requested by the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties to report annually to the States Parties on the following:
 - a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in section 17 of its extension request;
 - b. The outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Sudan's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
 - c. The outcomes of "data clean-up" efforts and of revisions to the terminology used by Sudan for areas known or suspected to contain mines, and the results of both on the management of mine action information;
 - d. Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
 - e. External financing received and resources made available by the Government of Sudan to support implementation; and
 - f. Efforts undertaken to facilitate the operations of international demining organizations and to expand indigenous demining capacity, and the results of these efforts.

The Committee observed that Sudan had reported in detail on each of these matters. The Committee further observed that, with respect to information provided on survey efforts and on the security situation, Sudan reported that conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was continuing to impede implementation of Article 5, including by preventing survey activities from taking place. The Committee also observed that, with respect to information on financing, Sudan reported that it received significantly less funding in 2014 than it had projected that it would need in its extension request.

Mine risk reduction

9. Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through the marking of hazardous areas. Sudan also has a national mine risk education programme that involves the Ministry of Education and uses social media to disseminate messages.

XV. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THAILAND

Progress in implementation

1. Thailand reported that, in 2014, it cleared 228,911 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and otherwise released 24,835,068 square meters of areas suspected to contain

anti-personnel mines, for a total of 25,063,979 square meters addressed and with 1,493 anti-personnel mines having been destroyed. In total during the period 2000-2014, Thailand has addressed 2,564,880,277 square meters, including 62,997,982 square meters having been cleared and 2,027,625,401 square meters reduced. The Committee observed that additional information on progress in implementation that would provide clarity and comparability with information provided by Thailand in its 2008 extension request would be welcomed, including information on progress reported that is more geographically specific according to area cleared, reduced or cancelled.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

2. The Committee observed that Thailand had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area and information on the geographic location of each area. Thailand reported that, as of 31 December 2014, 328 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 474,256,894 square metres remained to be addressed, with mined areas located in 17 of Thailand's provinces.
3. The Committee observed that Thailand could increase clarity concerning its remaining challenge by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan information on "the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey."

National plans for clearance and survey

4. Thailand provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 November 2018 deadline with this plan indicating what geographically and quantified results were expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee observed that the remaining challenge as of 2015 (i.e. 474,256,894 square meters) is significantly larger than the expected remaining challenge estimated for Thailand in its request by 2015 (254,350,000 square meters). In this regard, the Committee further observed that it would be welcomed if Thailand could provide an updated work plan indicating what geographical and quantified results it expects to accomplish by its extended deadline of 1 November 2018.

Efficient and expedient implementation

5. In its 2008 extension request, Thailand provided a description of its land release methods including its *Locating Minefield Procedure (LMP)*, which was intended to complement clearance. The Committee observed that, since Thailand submitted its request, the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on land release have been amended and may contain approaches that could further accelerate implementation. The Committee also observed that, given the sizeable reduction in area reported between the 2008 extension request and Thailand's report in 2015, any additional information would be welcomed on methods used to reduce or cancel areas.

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

6. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) noted that significant progress was expected, through Thailand's Locating Minefields Procedure, to overcome impeding circumstances such as the manner in which the Landmine Impact Survey in

Thailand had hindered implementation efforts. In this regard, the Committee observed that Thailand had reported that a significant amount of suspected hazardous area had been released since Thailand's extension request was considered. The Committee also recalled the commitments made by Thailand in its 2008 extension request related to enhancing and strengthening close cooperation at the regional level and building national capacity. In this regard, the Committee observed that information pursuant to these commitments would be welcomed.

Mine risk reduction

7. Thailand reported 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. Thailand also included a list of public awareness and outreach activities carried out in Bangkok and local communities around Thailand employing various communications means including social media.

XVI. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TURKEY

Progress in implementation

1. Turkey reported that, in 2014, the Turkish Armed Forces cleared 152,251 square meters. Turkey further reported that this amount of area had not yet been deducted from the total of remaining area requiring survey or clearance because the cleared area had not been certified. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Turkey in 2004, Turkey has addressed 6 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 1,150,297 square meters.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further observed that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee observed that Turkey had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a table summarising the total, per province, of the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, the estimated size of area, where known, and the number of emplaced anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, where known. Turkey reported that, as of the end of 2014, 3,080 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 172,688,003 square meters and 701 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with an unknown amount of area, remained to be addressed.
4. Turkey indicated that information on areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been modified relative to that previously provided for a variety of reasons. These include that detailed analysis and comparison of mine clearance reports and reports prepared following incidents caused by animals, wildfires or landslides had been undertaken and corrections were made.

National plans for clearance and survey

5. In its 2013 extension request, Turkey provided an overview of which regions would be addressed each year from 2015 to 2022, along with an estimated amount of area that would be released each year. In 2014, Turkey provided additional information on the implementation of its plan, as requested by the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP). The 13MSP also requested Turkey to submit to the States Parties, by 1 March 2015, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension, with this work plan containing an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organization, and a detailed budget. Turkey submitted an updated work plan on 17 March 2015, with it containing the following main elements:
 - a. With respect to mined areas in locations other than borders, the armed forces will address 280 areas totalling 1,514,913 square meters, with the number of areas per province and amount of area (if known) specified on an annual basis in each year from 2015 to 2021. Areas that are not planned to be cleared by the mine clearance units of the Turkish Armed Forces but will be addressed in accordance with the Mine Action Plan: 593 totalling 1,592,936 square meters, with the number of areas and amount of area specified to be addressed during the period 2015-2022.
 - b. With respect to Turkey's eastern borders, 223 areas totalling 11,669,907 square meters will be addressed in phase #1 during the period 2015-2017. A second phase of activity would take place during the period 2017-2019 with the number of areas and total area to be addressed to be determined on the basis of ongoing surveys.
 - c. With respect to Turkey's south-eastern border, 969 areas totalling 2,862,835 square meters will be addressed during the period 2019-2021.
 - d. With respect to Turkey's border with Syria, mine clearance activities will commence following the settlement of armed conflicts in Syria and the preparation of a Strategic Mine Action Plan by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC).
6. The Committee observed that, out of a total 3,781 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling an estimated 172,688,003 square metres, Turkey plans to address 2,065 areas totalling 17,640,591, along with an unknown amount of additional area along its eastern borders following the results of surveys and the possibility of additional areas along its border with Syria depending upon the settlement of armed conflicts in Syria. The Committee further observed that the vast majority of the areas (1,392) and area (144,290,431 square meters) not yet specified to be addressed in Turkey's plan are along its border with Syria. In addition to the areas along Turkey's border with Syria, an additional 324 areas totalling 10,756,981 square meters have not yet been specified to be addressed in Turkey's plan.
7. The Committee observed that Turkey's plan at present suggests that it will not be able to complete implementation of Article 5 by its deadline in 2022.
8. The Committee observed that, as was noted by the 13MSP, the timeliness of tendering and contracting processes, the establishment of a NMAA and NMAC, and cooperation with the European Union remain factors that will affect the implementation of Turkey's plan for completion. The Committee further observed that additional factors that will affect

implementation of the Turkey's plan will be the nature of information acquired from surveys and ongoing conflict in Syria in areas bordering Turkey.

Efficient and expedient implementation

9. In its 2013 extension request, Turkey provided information concerning its land release methods, noting that all land release activities are based on the standards and principles in its Syrian Border Mine Clearance Standards, which are which are based on the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Turkey further indicated in its request that, although these standards were developed exclusively for the Syrian border, they are applicable for the clearance of other areas. In its 2014 report, Turkey reported that land release standards will be applied after they are defined by the National Mien Action Centre. The Committee observed that, since Turkey submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.

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

10. As noted, Turkey complied with the 13MSP decision requesting Turkey to submit, to the States Parties, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. In submitting this plan, Turkey indicated that this work plan will be finalized by the yet to be established 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 observed that, as further revisions to the plan are possible, ongoing updates by Turkey on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcomed.
11. In granting Turkey's request for an extended deadline, the 13MSP noted that, with speedy establishment of a national mine action authority (NMAA) and national mine action centre (NMAC), Turkey may find itself in a situation wherein it could complete implementation before its extended deadline. In this regard, Turkey reported that a law on the establishment of a NMAC was adopted on 22 January 2015 and entered into force on 3 February 2015. Turkey further reported that the process of establishing the NMAC has started and that a mine action strategy for the period 2016-2022 will be submitted to the Council of Ministers in 2015.

Mine risk reduction

12. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with these actions including fencing and marking as well as mine risk education programmes. Turkey further reported that there were 26 new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2014.

XVII. OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

Progress in implementation

1. Initially, in 2008, the United Kingdom reported 117 areas totalling 13,149,000 square meters. On the basis of additional information obtained by the United Kingdom by ongoing survey and clearance activities, the amount of area in question was adjusted to 13,528,430 square meters.
2. The United Kingdom reported that, during the period 2009 to 30 May 2015, three phases of clearance operations and part of a fourth were completed with 19 areas and 1,180,340 square

meters of area released through mine clearance and an additional 3,673,000 square meters of non-landmine tasks (i.e., tasks undertaken to address unexploded ordnance) released through battle area clearance.

3. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom had provided a high degree of clarity with respect to areas and area cleared and that the information provided by United Kingdom on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further observed that this information was disaggregated according to area released through mine clearance and area released through battle area clearance.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area and information on the geographic location of each area. The United Kingdom reported that, as of 30 May 2015, 98 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 12,293,700 square metres remained to be addressed.

National plans for clearance and survey

5. The Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) took note of the United Kingdom's confirmation that scenario 5 of the field survey, which formed part of the feasibility study attached to the extension request, served as the United Kingdom's indicative clearance plan, containing clear priorities, timeframes for action and projected milestones for clearance over the period of the extension and as such formed a basis for future work. This scenario projected that, after 60 months, 6,322,000 square meters, representing 48 percent of the United Kingdom's implementation challenge, would have been addressed. The Committee further observed that, with more than 60 months having passed since the United Kingdom was granted an extended deadline, the United Kingdom had addressed approximately 1,180,340 square meters, representing approximately 9 percent of the United Kingdom's implementation challenge.
6. The United Kingdom provided a revised implementation plan for the last trimester of 2015, noting that 15 areas totalling approximately 928,000 square meters would be addressed, that additional work adjacent to three of these areas (related to the place name "Eliza Cove") would result in approximately 935,000 square meters in additional area released and that battle area clearance would release 1,189,204 square meters of area presumably containing ordnance other than anti-personnel mines. The Committee observed that further clarity would be welcomed regarding whether the areas to be addressed which are related to "Eliza Cove" and those subject to battle area clearance fall under the scope of Convention obligations.
7. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom's plan for 2015 represent a significant increase in ambition. The Committee further observed that, notwithstanding this ambition, the United Kingdom's pace of implementation suggests that it will not be able to complete implementation of Article 5 by its deadline in 2019.
8. The United Kingdom reported that several challenges to demining, including the geographical location of the mined areas, adverse weather conditions, concerns about environmental impact, incomplete minefield records, and a difficult financial climate, will become increasingly significant as the later phases of demining seek to tackle the more remote and technically-challenging minefields. The United Kingdom further reported that it is reviewing how it may

address these challenges as it seeks to fulfil its Article 5 obligations, and hopes to continue with demining without a significant delay. The Committee also observed that, as the United Kingdom had not provided plans to implement Article 5 beyond 2015, further updates by the United Kingdom on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcomed.

Efficient and expedient implementation

9. The United Kingdom reported that it applies International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in its demining operations, as well as applying local environmental and planning regulations.

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

10. In granting the United Kingdom's request for an extended deadline, the 9MSP noted the United Kingdom's undertaking to provide, in addition to article 7 requirements, regular reports on a variety of elements. The Committee observed that the United Kingdom complemented its annual Article 7 submission in 2015 by providing the Committee with detailed additional information and making "mine exploitation reports" available.

Mine risk reduction

11. The United Kingdom reported that there are effective fences and minefield marker warnings in place around all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, that schoolchildren are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings as appropriate.