

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION BY YEMEN**

### **COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Austria, Canada, Norway, Zambia)**

**Intersessional Meetings 30 June -2 July 2020**

#### **I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #22, #21, #8)**

1. Yemen reported that in 2019, fighting continued on several front across Yemen, restricting access to mined areas. Yemen also reported that as part of its Mine Action Emergency Response efforts in 2019, it destroyed 1,414 anti-personnel mines, 34,408 anti-tank mines, 12 sea mines, 73,739 items of unexploded ordnance and 2,228 improvised explosive devices. Yemen also reported that it had established a draft prioritisation system to task clearance teams based on input from local authorities, non-government organisations and the United Nations.
2. The Committee observed that Yemen reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and welcomes Yemen's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination (Action #21). The Committee also noted the importance of Yemen reporting in accordance with International Mine Action Standards, (IMAS) and by using the Guide to Reporting (Action #22, #8).

#### **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Actions #18, #20, #22)**

3. The Committee observed that Yemen had provided some clarity on its remaining challenge (Action #18). The Committee recalled that in its 2019 extension request, Yemen reported a remaining challenge of 326 hazardous areas measuring 12,995,161 square metres and that, due to a lack of access to contaminated areas, it was not in a position to offer a more accurate estimation of its remaining challenge. The Committee further noted that in 2019, Yemen reported anti-personnel mine contamination present in 15 governorates (Action #22).
4. The Committee noted the importance of Yemen submitting to the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties further information on its efforts to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination (Action #18).
5. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Yemen will be further clarified following survey of suspected hazardous areas (SHA), at which time Yemen will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge (Action #20).

#### **III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #19, #20, #26)**

6. The Committee observed that, in its 2019 extension request, Yemen included a timeline for carrying out several activities, including nation-wide survey and the establishment of offices in Marib and Tiaz. Yemen reported that nation-wide survey is still in the planning phase and that the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) has established an office in Marib and Taiz with the support of the UNDP (Action #2, #19). The Committee encourages Yemen to continue to report on progress in implementation, including information on the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed annually against updated milestones, including how priorities have been established to achieve completion as soon as possible (Action #20).

7. The Committee noted that Yemen reported on its efforts to integrate and prioritise mine clearance activities with Yemen Response plan (Action #1). Yemen reported that in 2019 the Government of Yemen provided YEMAC staff and insurance, with an annual Government budget of US \$3 million. Yemen indicated that the availability of funding was affected by the conflict and the current circumstances. Yemen reported financial support from donors to international non-government organisations and to the UNDP. Yemen also reported that support is provided through the MASAM project from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Yemen reported that the, 'Masam Project' to clear mines in Yemen was renewed in 2019 and that further renewal of the project was ongoing in 2020. Yemen reported that the majority of funding is for implementation, whereas coordination is less likely to be funded. In this regard, the Committee encourages Yemen to continue to provide updates on the allocation of state resources and international support of its work plan (Action #1).
8. The Committee would welcome annual updates on how Yemen ensures consideration of gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in the development of its work plans as well as in ongoing work to achieve completion of its obligations under Article 5 (Action #3).
9. The Committee noted that international organisations will use YEMAC deminers on a seconded basis to allow for capacity development of the Yemen Mine Action sector. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further information on Yemen's efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas that may be discovered following Yemen declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations (Action #26).

#### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)**

10. Yemen reported that it had projected to develop a national mine action standard for survey. However, this was postponed due the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee welcomes the updates from Yemen and encourages Yemen to provide further updates concerning the status of its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and if NMAS are up to date with IMAS to ensure the efficient and expedient implementation of its mine action programme (Action #5).
11. Yemen reported its efforts to strengthen its information management system. The Committee welcomes these efforts and encourages Yemen to provide further information on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system (Action #9). The Committee noted that Yemen had reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations and welcomes further information from Yemen in this regard (Action #27).

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

12. The Committee recalled that in granting Yemen's request, the Fourth Review Conference requested Yemen to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Yemen regarding; progress and results of its mine action emergency response efforts; progress in the establishment of a prioritization system; progress in updating its National Mine Action Standards and Standard Operating Procedures; progress made in strengthening its information management system; the outcome of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Yemen's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge; progress made in addressing mined areas during the extension period disaggregated in accordance with the IMAS by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared; efforts to increase survey and demining capacity, including efforts carried by Yemen to expand partnerships with international non-governmental organizations and commercial companies, and the result of these efforts; resources obtained relative to needs

expressed in the request, including resources provided by the Government of Yemen itself; progress made in the establishment of YEMAC branches in Taiz and Marib; changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation; and efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts, as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

#### **VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)**

13. Yemen reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Yemen reported that it deployed 14 women risk awareness trainers and that international non-government organisations are aware of the different needs of girls, women, boys and men and these considerations are taken into account in planning (Action #32, #29).

14. The Committee would welcome further information from Yemen on its efforts to include mine risk education activities within wide humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts (Action #28). The Committee would also welcome further information from Yemen on its efforts to develop mine risk education and reduction programmes on the basis of a needs assessment, and updates on Yemen's efforts to ensure that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account (Action #29). The Committee would welcome further information on its efforts to provide mine risk education and reduction programmes based on an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and prioritised to people most at-risk, and its efforts to develop a national capacity to deliver these programmes (Action #30, #31).