

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION  
(Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands)**

**Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019**

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ANGOLA**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Angola reported that in 2018 it addressed 14,544,434 square metres, including 10,827,073 square metres cancelled, 2,673,949 square metres reduced, and 1,043,412 square metres cleared, destroying 1,707 anti-personnel mines, 32 anti-tank mines and 1,259 items of UXO in the process.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Angola on progress allowed for comparability with that previously provided in its extension request presented to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP). The Committee observed that it was essential that Angola continue to report progress in a manner consistent with IMAS. In this regard, the Committee welcomed Angola employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee observed that Angola had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee noted that Angola reported that following the completion of the comprehensive national non-technical survey it had established a new baseline for its remaining contamination comprising 1,220 mined areas in 18 Provinces measuring 105,056,855 square metres. The Committee recalled that Angola's request for extension granted at the 16MSP indicated a remaining challenge consisting of 1,246 CHAs measuring 149,518,827 square metres and 219 SHAs measuring 71,890,852 square metres. The Committee welcomes further clarification from Angola on the results of survey and its impact on progress in implementation.

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

5. The Committee noted that Angola had reported the completion of the national non-technical survey and would welcome further clarification on the results of survey and the impact of survey outcomes on annual milestones. In this regard, the Committee recalled that Angola submitted to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties an updated work plan with annual milestones for the period of the extension, including 167 mined areas measuring 17,463,949 square metres to be addressed in 2019, 164 mined areas measuring 17,210,199 square metres to be addressed in 2020, and 164 mined areas measuring 17,210,199 square metres to be addressed annually for the period of 2021-2025.

**IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

6. In its 2017 extension request, Angola reported that the methodologies employed are in compliance with IMAS and that all NGOs employ the same standards. The Committee recalled that the 16MSP and 17MSP had encouraged Angola to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Angola fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Committee would welcome further information from Angola regarding this matter.

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

7. The Committee recalled that the 16MSP had requested that Angola submit to the 17MSP an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee observed that that Angola had acted upon its commitment.

#### **VI. Mine risk reduction**

8. Angola reported that MRE activities are conducted on a continuous basis with focus on communities affected by minefields and in locations where explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) tasks are being undertaken. Angola reported that MRE activities are implemented by all humanitarian operators. Angola further reported that due to the effectiveness of MRE activities, the number of accidents and casualties among the civilian population has reduced compared to previous years.
9. The Committee noted that it would welcome further information on Angola's MRE strategy and updates on resource mobilisation efforts in support of these actions. The Committee would also welcome further information from Angola regarding the design of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive MRE activities, that are coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.