

**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 THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

I. Progress in implementation

1. The Democratic Republic of the Congo report covered the period 1 January 2018 – 31 March 2019. During this period, the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressing 13 mined areas releasing 422,461 square metres, including 275,700 square metres in 2018 and 146,761 square metres during 1 January – 31 March 2019. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also reported having conducted 457 spot tasks, as a result of these activities a total of 7,295 items of UXO/ AXO, 17,460 items of Small arms ammunition and 17 items of other ordnance were destroyed.
2. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that it identified an additional 9 mined areas measuring 169,356 square metres in Nord Ubangi, Tanganyika, Kasai, Maniema, Tshopo and Sud-Ubangi Provinces.
3. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that as a result of national survey conducted 30 new mined areas measuring 470,782 square metres were identified in Bas-Uele, Ituri, Kasai, Lomami, Nord-Kivu, Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika and Tshopo.
4. The Committee noted that the information provided by the Democratic Republic of the Congo on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided previously. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo could increase clarity on progress in implementation through the use of terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with IMAS.
5. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo could provide more clarity on progress in implementation by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

6. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that as of 31 March 2019, 85 dangerous areas measuring 775,884 square metres, including 53 mined areas measuring 741,559 square metres in the Provinces of Bas-Uele, Ituri, of Kasai, Lomami, Maniema, Nord-Kivu, Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika, Tshopo et Tshuapa remain to be addressed. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also reported a total of 32 areas contaminated with explosive remnants of war (34,099 square metres). The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that the territory of DUNGU in Haut-Uele Province and ARU in Ituri Province will be investigated during 2019.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

7. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported 23 mined areas measuring 282,280 square metres identified during a national survey and which remain to be addressed. The Committee

recalled in its conclusions presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in 2018 that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had tasked NPA to undertake re-survey of the 27 mined areas remaining from its initial survey in 2018. The Committee would welcome further information on the results of survey and their impact on the Democratic Republic of the Congo's projected annual milestones and remaining challenge would be welcome.

8. The Committee noted that further information from the Democratic Republic of the Congo regarding annual milestones for addressing its remaining challenge would be welcome. The Committee noted that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed through the use of terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS.
9. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that the original survey due to insecurity had not been conducted in the Dungu territories in the Upper Uele Province and in the Aru territories in Ituri Province. The Committee concluded that regular updated information on the security situation in these two provinces and possible surveys would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

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

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

11. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2014 extension request. The Committee further noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had committed to develop an operational plan by 1 January 2015. Given this commitment, the Conference requested that the Democratic Republic of the Congo submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, a clear and detailed survey and clearance plan leading to completion by 1 January 2021. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not acted upon the commitments made at the occasion of the granting of the extension request. The Committee noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo could provide more clarity by submitting an updated work plan as soon as possible. The Committee encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo when updating its work plan to employ the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

VI. Mine risk education

1. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported for 2018 1,628 sessions for a total of 100, 267 beneficiaries in the Provinces of Kasai-Central, Maniema, Nord-Kivu, Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika and Tshopo. The Committee noted that beneficiary figures were disaggregated by sex and age. The Committee observed that for the period January to March 2019 a total of 415 MRE sessions were conducted benefiting 126,995 persons. The Committee further noted that beneficiary figures were disaggregated by sex and age.