

**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 SOMALIA**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Somalia reported that, in 2018 it registered 28 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) and 46 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA). Somalia further reported that in 2018 its implementing agencies addressed 8 mined areas destroying 8 anti-personnel mines.
2. Somalia reported that the Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) had taken over ownership of the IMSMA database from UNMAS on 2 October 2017 and that the process of updating and verifying historical data was continuing.
3. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in 2018 the importance of Somalia reporting on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS, and encourages Somalia to employ the Guide to Reporting.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

4. The Committee observed that Somalia provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge in 5 States, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Puntland, and Southwest. Somalia reported a total of 74 mined areas measuring 72,189,354 square metres including 28 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 12,409,769 square metres and 46 suspected hazardous areas measuring 59,779,584 square metres. This includes 37 suspected hazardous areas in Puntland of which there was no recorded measure of area.
5. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in 2018 that Somalia disaggregated its remaining challenge by type of explosive ordnance and noted that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and other explosive remnants of war also pose extreme risks to the civilian population and to the implementation of development activities. In this regard, the Committee observed that Somalia's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Somalia. The Committee noted the importance of Somalia continuing to disaggregate the challenge of anti-personnel mine contamination.

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

6. Somalia reported that it is waiting for approval of its Badbaado plan phase II, a five year implementation plan for fulfilling Somalia's obligations under the Convention. The Committee noted that information on the objectives and milestones for monitoring progress leading towards Somalia's 1 October 2022 deadline for implementation of Article 5 would be welcome.
7. Somalia also reported that non-technical survey (NTS) is being implemented in 5 states, with capacity building of NTS teams being conducted. The Committee noted the importance of conducting survey to quantify and qualify its remaining implementation challenge as soon as possible and welcomes further information on the timeline of the survey, milestones and capacity building efforts being undertaken in support of these teams.

8. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in 2018 that with survey activities ongoing, updates on the results of survey and capacity building efforts would be welcome, including impact on Somalia's annual work plan and Article 5 deadline of 1 October 2022.

#### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation**

9. The Committee observed that information from Somalia on its efforts to ensure the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies are in place as soon as possible, in accordance with the Maputo Action Plan #8, 9, 10 and the IMAS, would be welcome.

#### **V. Mine risk reduction**

10. Somalia reported that NGOs in each state as well as all International organizations are conducting MRE to mitigate the risk. Somalia reported on the implementation of 183 mine risk education actions that were conducted in 6 regions during the reporting period. The Committee noted that MRE activities benefited 27,171 people.
11. The Committee noted that data on MRE beneficiaries was disaggregated by sex and age. The Committee would welcome further information from Somalia regarding the design of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive mine risk education 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.