

## **Mine Action Programme of Angola: Status and Challenges in Implementation**

**Tuesday, 27 November 2018**

### **Introduction and participants**

On 27 November 2018, Angola and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention with the support of the Implementation Support Unit invited state and civil society representatives to engage on Angola's needs and challenges in mine action and, in particular, efforts to complete its mine clearance commitments by 31 December 2025. Following a presentation by Angola, participants engaged in an informal discussion about possible opportunities of cooperation and assistance in support of Angola's efforts. Participants received a package including an invitation, agenda and Angola's Presentation, (delivered version attached).

### **Participants**

**States:** Angola, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States.

**Convention representatives:** Canada, as Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, Sweden and Thailand as members of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit.

**Organizations:** Angola-ANCAD<sup>1</sup>, Angola- CNIDAH<sup>2</sup>, APOPO, the HALO Trust, European Union, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid, and ITAD.

### **Presentation**

Angola (CNIDAH) presented an overview of the State's engagement with the Convention, Angola ratified the Convention on 5 July 2002, and the Convention entered into force for Angola on 1 January 2003. Angola indicated that with the experience acquired over the years, Angola has gained confidence in addressing its Article 5 obligations. Angola is currently implementing its Article 5 commitments as part of its second extension request, granted by the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties (16MSP) for the period of 1 January 2018 - 31 December 2025.

Angola indicated that in granting its request the 16MSP requested that "Angola submit to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Meeting requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organizations, and a revised detailed budget". Angola's extension request summary and work-plan were annexed as part of the package of documents for the event.

Angola indicated that it has made considerable progress in implementation of Article 5 obligations, addressing a total of 193 hazardous areas releasing in the process 98,054,198 square metres. Angola

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<sup>1</sup> ANCAD- The National Authority for Control of Arm and Disarmament of the Ministry of Defense

<sup>2</sup> CNIDAH- National Inter-sectorial Commission for Humanitarian Demining and Assistance

presented a remaining challenge of 1,272 hazardous areas, measuring 123,355,481 square metres, consisting of 1,123 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 108,000,531 square metres and 149 suspect hazardous areas measuring 15,354,950 square metres. Angola presented its projected progress including the release of 120,000,000 square metres during its extension period, (2019-2025), at an estimated cost of US \$374 million with a target to release 164 hazardous areas, measuring 17,000,000 square metres annually, at an annual cost of US \$54 million.

Angola indicated that the Angolan Government is committed to allocating US \$50 million for the period of 2019-2021 and that this amount is anticipated to continue for the period of 2022-2025. Angola highlighted that two provinces are almost mine-free, Malanje province, (two suspect hazardous areas remaining), and Huambo Province, (remaining minefields are under military control).

Angola welcomed the opportunity to build on the cooperation with existing partners and undertake new partnerships towards the achievement of the 2025 goal, with a focus on capacity development currently being supported as part of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, Global Mine Action Programme Project.

## **Discussion**

Based on the presentation, the following questions and comments were taken from the floor.

- Participants requested clarification regarding the Government of Angola's allocation of US \$50 million for the period of 2019-2021 and if this funding makes part of the total amount indicated as required for the extension period (US \$374 million). Angola responded that the US \$50 million was not included in the total with this funding being allocated to national bodies responsible for demining including the CNIDAH and CED, which includes INAD, the Armed forces, the Border Force and Security Personnel of the President. Angola indicated that this is to cover administrative costs and national development efforts. Angola also indicated that the source of national income at the moment is volatile but that the changes in government are having a significant positive impact in many areas.
- Participants commented that Angola had shown demonstrable progress in implementing efficient land release practices and commended Angola's continued national commitment of funding. A question was raised regarding the inclusion of Mine Action into Angola's national development plans, including plans to implement the sustainable development goals. Angola responded that demining is a high priority for the country and that it was included in the National Development Plan of 2018-2022. In addition, Angola indicated that demining is also always included in the annual State of the Nation speech and in other key statements of the President.
- A comment was made on the importance of continuous dialogue and coordination with operators in Angola. Angola responded that in terms of coordination they are in touch with respective operators with a specific focus on updating the national mine action database.
- A comment was made that organisations supported the efforts made by Angola under the convention including its efforts to strengthen its data management and encouraged Angola to continue reporting in a manner which disaggregates between area cancelled, area reduced and area cleared. Participants reinforced the need for institutions to interact and cooperate and to ensure road verifications were taking place.
- The United States indicated that it will follow up discussion in Luanda.

- The EU commented that the best way for Angola to access EU funding streams was through the EU Delegation in Luanda. The EU indicated that unfortunately the last EU Development Fund project in 2016 did not include mine action. However, Angola's engagement with the EU this year was timely given that the 2020 Development Fund is currently being debated. The EU indicated that it would take the information from the dialogue back to colleague and highlighted some of the criteria for EU support including national ownership, national mine action strategy and legislation and an inclusive approach to implementation with national stakeholders. Participants commented that the intervention of EU was welcome, and that the list of criteria required for European Development Funds (EDF) is clear, and welcomed EU's engagement in Angola.
- Dr. Neto, Victim Assistance expert from Angola mentioned the complementary actions of the Government of Angola in supporting victim assistance and health sector. Several comments were made regarding support for victims in Angola, including the importance of the Government responding to an increase in casualties, through delivery of more mine risk education and aligning all projects with Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Economy for better coordination. Angola indicated that there is currently significant work on women victims and vulnerable group and that it is clear that women suffer disproportionately often through the killing of their spouse resulting in women taking on the role of single head of household. Angola further shared good news concerning participation of persons with disability from Angola in the Paralympic world cup.
- Further remarks were made on the implementation of Angola's mine action strategy that stressed both mine clearance and victim assistance components. Angola indicated that work will begin with a consultant of the GICHD in March 2019 to update the strategy.
- Angola indicated that there is hope that both provinces of Huambo and Malanje can be released in 2019. Participants indicated the significance of this milestone and the opportunity it presented to raise awareness of the progress that could be accomplished in Angola.
- Participants also indicated the importance of countering corruption and welcomed more information on the capacity training program. NPA provided addition input into the efforts they are undertaken to support information and quality management as well as other capacity building efforts and welcomed inquiries from others in the future on capacity building efforts.
- Operators stressed the amount of area that has been cancelled as a result of recent survey and that this will allow for significant progress in operations going forward. It was further indicated that, today, there is regular coordination with partners and that this has been strengthen through the DFID consortium which the HALO Trust leads.

### **Closing Remarks**

In closing Angola re-emphasised its goal to complete clearance of two provinces, (Malanje and Huambo) in the near term. Angola also emphasised that the extension request was the beginning of a new era in Angola with efforts having led to greater accuracy on its remaining challenge. Angola also indicated that it will ensure efforts for greater coordination by maintaining an operations room which will allow operators to report and share information and noted that the Deputy Governor of each Province is responsible for coordinating mine action.

## **Follow up**

The following points were shared for further follow up by Angola for 2019:

- Development of the national strategy will begin in 2019 and will be an inclusive process;
- Increase its coordination efforts with partners in 2019;
- Improvements in its information management and reporting;
- Actions regarding victim assistance.

## **Contact Information**

Requests for further information can be directed:

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**Angola's Individualised Approach  
Participant List  
Tuesday, 27 November 2018 on the margins of the 17MSP**

**States**

	<b>State</b>	<b>Name</b>
1	Permanent Mission of Angola	Antonio Jaime
2	Permanent Mission of Angola	Marilia Manuel
3	Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Koen Höcker
4	Permanent Mission of Norway	Hana Cervenka
5	Permanent Mission of Sweden	Daniel Nord
6	Thailand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Kitjawat Tacharoen
7	United Kingdom, Department for International Development	Elizabeth McGarva
8	United States, Department of State	Katherine Baker

**Convention representatives**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
9	Committee on Cooperation and Assistance	Jérôme Collard-Proulx
10	Implementation Support Unit	Juan Carlos Ruan
11	Implementation Support Unit	Gregory Cathcart

**Organisations**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
12	ANCAD Angola	Jesualdo Cambuta
13	ANCAD Angola	João Silva
14	APOPO	Ashley Fitzpatrick
15	APOPO	Tekimiti Gilbert
16	APOPO	Michael Heinman
17	APOPO	Havard Bach
18	CNIDAH Angola	Edgar Lourenço
19	CNIDAH Angola	Adriano Goncalves
20	CNIDAH Angola	Maria Nets
21	HALO Trust	James Cohen
22	HALO Trust	Jasmine Dann
23	European Union	Fotini Antonopoulou
24	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	Stanislav Damjanovic
25	International Coalition to Ban Landmines	Amelie Chayer
26	Mines Advisory Group	Darren Cormack
27	Mines Advisory Group	Josephine Dresner
28	Mines Advisory Group	Roxana Bobolicu
29	Norwegian People's Aid	Katherine Harrison
30	Norwegian People's Aid	Steiner Essén
31	Norwegian People's Aid	Faiz Paktyan
33	Norwegian People's Aid	Zlatko Vezilić
34	ITAD, (M&E for DFID GMAP)	Belinda Goslin