

**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention  
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel  
Mines and on Their Destruction**

27 November 2015

Original: English

**Fourteenth Meeting**

Geneva, 30 November - 4 December 2015

**Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda**

**Operation and status of the Convention. Presentation, reporting,  
discussion and decision with regard to: Conclusions and recommendations  
related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

**Report and Conclusions of the Committee on Article 5  
implementation<sup>1</sup>**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Introduction**

1. The purpose of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation is to intensify efforts, particularly those outlined in the Maputo Action Plan, to ensure that Article 5 is fully implemented as soon as possible, while acknowledging local, national and regional circumstances in its practical implementation.
2. At the Maputo Review Conference, it was agreed that the Committee will fulfil its purpose by providing feedback to States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, with the opportunity to do so in part resting with the Committee's mandate to present preliminary observations at intersessional meetings if need be, and final annual conclusions at Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences, pursuant to a review of relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties. As well, the Committee is mandated to prepare and submit to the States Parties in advance of Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences an analysis of each request for an Article 5 extended deadline. In addition, the Committee is intended to ensure that a cooperative engagement of Article 5 implementing States Parties continues after requests have been granted.
3. The Maputo Review Conference also mandated the Committee to remain transparent and accountable. In this spirit, the Committee presents this report and final conclusions to the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

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<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



## II. Activities

4. The Committee met for the first time in September 2014 and has met at least twice monthly, on average, ever since. On 12 December 2014, the Committee held a briefing for the States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5 to inform them of the Committee's purpose and mandate and how the Committee intends to fulfil its mandate. The Committee called on the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to advise these States Parties on how they may wish to provide information in accordance with the Maputo Action Plan commitments, with it noted that these commitments to provide information on mine clearance and the Convention's reporting requirements are closely related. The Committee, on 18 December 2014, wrote in follow-up to this briefing to provide information in writing to all relevant delegations.

5. The Committee's cooperative engagement continued in February 2015 in Geneva when, on the margins of the annual meeting of mine action national programme directors and UN advisors, the Committee met, including in bilateral meetings, representatives of eight States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, including with several national mine action directors.

6. On 2 March 2015, the Committee wrote to the States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 obligations to recall the 30 April deadline for providing updated information on implementation in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee also informed these States Parties regarding how the Committee would proceed in preparing preliminary observations for the intersessional meetings.

7. During the Intersessional Meetings held on 25-26 June 2015 the Committee presented its preliminary observations to the States Parties and welcomed clarifications and additional information from States Parties implementing Article 5.

8. On 14 July 2015, the Committee wrote to the States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling Article 5 to provide any additional information regarding the Committee's preliminary observations which would assist the Committee in preparing its conclusions.

9. In preparing final conclusions, in some instances, the Committee was impeded by the absence of information and late submission of information by some States Parties.

10. The Committee undertook a variety of efforts with a view to building the capacity and knowledge of its Members. On 21 November 2014, Committee Members took part in a half-day information session organized by the ISU, which featured in-depth briefings on the mine clearance aspects of the Convention and training on non-technical survey provided by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. In addition, the Committee engaged demining operators, meeting with the HALO Trust on 13 January 2015, with Norwegian People's Aid on 17 February 2015, and with the Mines Advisory Group on 18 February 2015. The Committee and individual Members also maintained regular contact with the ICBL.

## III. Methodology

11. In line with its purpose of intensifying efforts to ensure the full implementation of Article 5, the Committee gave particular attention to the following aspects of the Maputo Action Plan:

(a) The Maputo Action Plan calls for increased clarity regarding remaining implementation challenges, with this clarity encouraged through Article 7 reports, Article 5 extension requests and information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests.

(b) The Maputo Action Plan, by calling for increased clarity, supports improvements in the measurability of Article 5 implementation over time, with improvements in the quality of information permitting greater understanding and comparability.

(c) The Maputo Action Plan emphasises efficient and expedient implementation with commitments to apply the most relevant landrelease standards and methodologies.

12. Given the subject matter covered in Actions #8 to #11, the Committee proceeded in preparing on the following matters:

- Clarity regarding remaining challenges
- Progress in implementation
- National plans for clearance and survey
- The application of land release standards, policies and methodologies
- Actions taken related to commitments in extension requests and decisions on requests
- Mine risk reduction efforts

13. The Committee is mandated to “review relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties, including in the context of Article 7 obligations and on efforts undertaken under Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance”. In preparing its conclusions, the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties in 2015 in the context of Article 7 reporting, information contained in requests for extended deadlines that were submitted in 2015, and any additional information provided in writing by States Parties on Article 5 implementation.

14. In reviewing information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation, the Committee noted different degrees of clarity regarding the location of all mined areas that contain or are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. As a result, the Committee has used terminology in its conclusions in the following manner:

(a) “High degree of clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area.

(b) “Clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions / provinces / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.

(c) “Some clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

#### **IV. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation**

15. At the close of the Maputo Review Conference, 31 States Parties had reported that they were still in the process of implementing Article 5 of the Convention. Of these, as of 1 October 2015 the following provided information:

(a) 23 States Parties submitted updated information in 2015 on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas in accordance with obligations under Article 5: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Iraq, Mauritania, Mozambique, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe<sup>2</sup>.

(b) Six States Parties –Cambodia, Croatia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United Kingdom – made additional information available on Article 5 implementation.

(c) One State Party – Mozambique – declared completion of its Article 5 obligations on 17 September.

(d) Two State Parties – Turkey and Zimbabwe – provided information pursuant to decisions taken on their request for extended deadline.

(e) Four States Parties – Cyprus, Ethiopia, Mauritania and Senegal – submitted requests for extended mine clearance deadlines with these requests containing information on Article 5 implementation.

16. Of the 31 States Parties, which as of close of the Maputo Review Conference had reported that they were still in the process of implementing Article 5 of the Convention, as of 1 October 2015, did not submit this year updated information to the Convention's depository on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal, Somalia and Yemen.

## **V. Conclusions of a general nature on the implementation of article 5**

17. The Committee concluded that, of the 30 States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, few have reported that they have a plan to complete implementation of Article 5, some have plans that extend beyond their deadlines and many have not indicated that they have plans leading up to their deadlines.

18. The Committee concluded that additional clarity on remaining Article 5 challenges, expressed in accordance with commitments made in the Maputo Action Plan, would be welcome from many States Parties. The Committee further concluded that, for some States Parties, there is significant scope for improvements in clarity. The Committee concluded that such clarity could greatly improve measurability over time and assist all States Parties in knowing, at an early stage, whether States Parties either are on track to complete implementation as planned or are encountering challenges in doing so.

19. The Committee concluded that the States Parties that provided the greatest clarity were generally those that received and made use of advice and support from the ISU. In addition, many that provided the greatest clarity implemented ways and means of reporting as contained in the President's draft guide to reporting, thus highlighting the value of guidance that updates and consolidates the States Parties' decisions on Article 5 reporting. The Committee further concluded that the President's draft guide to reporting could be a useful basis for advising States Parties on effectively reporting on the implementation of Article 5.

20. The Committee concluded that, while several States Parties have indicated that they are carrying out land release in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine

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<sup>2</sup> The Committee's conclusions on these States Parties are issued as separate official documents.

Action Standards (IMAS), these indications were often made and/or refer to national standards established prior to significant amendments to the IMAS on land release made on 1 March 2013.

21. The Committee concluded that information provided by the States Parties in their Article 7 transparency reports as well as follow-up information provided by States Parties is crucial for fulfilling the Committee's mandate. The Committee concluded that receiving this information in a timely manner facilitated their work.

22 In the area of implementation of the Article 5 provisions the Committee identified the importance and value of the ISU's support provided to the State Parties to fulfil their obligations.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by  
Afghanistan**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Afghanistan reported that in 2014, it released 161 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing a total of 27,456,673 square meters and destroying 12,684 anti-personnel mines. The Committee concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Afghanistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2012 extension request. In this regard, the Committee concluded that between 30 June 2012 and 31 December 2014, the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been reduced from 3,847 to 2,685 and the amount of area reduced from 289,400,000 square meters to 221,944,806 square meters.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to seven regions of the country. This

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



list included the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Afghanistan reported that, as of the end of 2014, 2,348 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and 337 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling 221,944,806 square metres, remained to be addressed.

4. The Committee also concluded that Afghanistan included areas in which improvised explosive devices (IED) are recorded as having been abandoned as part of its remaining Article 5 challenge.

5. Afghanistan also reported that the nationwide non-technical survey planned for the first two years of the extension request is ongoing with the aim of visiting all the recorded and unrecorded impacted communities for further validation of previous surveys. Afghanistan further reported that, as of December 2014, a total of 831 previously unknown hazards totalling 38.1 square kilometres had been identified. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, Afghanistan's remaining challenge could be further clarified by providing more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

6. Afghanistan provided a detailed plan in its 2012 extension request leading towards completion with this clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that, while progress has greatly surpassed that expected in the plan contained in the extension request, since the time of the request, Afghanistan has identified an additional 831 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 38.1 square kilometres.

7. Afghanistan indicated in its extension request that it would annually review its work plan and make any necessary adjustment. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan had provided an updated projection of the number of areas and amount of area to be cleared and reduced in each region and in each year between 2015 and 2022. Afghanistan also reported on other changes that had been made to its work plan on the basis of new information obtained as well as shortfalls in funding during the second year of its extension. The Committee concluded that, while Afghanistan anticipates releasing a considerable amount of area and number of areas annually leading to its deadline in 2022, the number of areas (2,079) and amount of area (196,089,000 square meters) fall short of the number of areas (2,348) and amount of area (221,944,806 square meters) that Afghanistan has reported as remaining to be addressed.

8. In its extension request, Afghanistan reported that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, it faced challenges associated with anti-vehicle mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). In this regard, the Committee concluded that Afghanistan's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Afghanistan.

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

9. In its 2012 extension request, Afghanistan provided a detailed description of its land release methods noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. Afghanistan reported that it has updated its Mine Action Standards in line with the updated IMAS on land release, as modified in July 2013.

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

10. The Committee recalled that the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) had requested that Afghanistan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan was acting upon the decisions of the 12MSP which request Afghanistan to regularly inform the States Parties of non-technical survey and “village by village search” efforts, revisions to its work plan and reasons for these revisions. In providing this information Afghanistan reported that ongoing conflict remains a major challenge threatening successful fulfilment of Article 5 commitments.

11. The Committee further concluded that Afghanistan had reported in 2015 in such a way that there was a high degree of comparability with respect to annual milestones for progress provided in its extension request.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

12. Afghanistan reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. This has included ensuring appropriate marking of hazardous areas is carried out as well as providing mine risk education (MRE) to people living in the mine and other ERW impacted communities, returnees and internally displaced people. This is done through diverse methods including visits to communities, the media, UNHCR transit centres, mini-circus for children and cooperation with the Ministry of Education to include MRE in school curriculums. Afghanistan further reported that, in 2014, 2,978 civilians have fallen victim to IEDs in Afghanistan out of which 925 were killed and 2,053 injured meaning that the number of civilian casualties from IEDs is about seven times that which resulted from landmines and ERW. Nearly 20 per cent of casualties are due to pressure plate IEDs which are de facto anti-personnel mines.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Algeria**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Algeria reported that, in 2014 and in the first trimester of 2015, it released 14 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing approximately 11,871.1 square kilometres and destroying 53,145 anti-personnel mines. In total since 2008, Algeria has released 51 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing approximately 80,568.62 square kilometres and destroying 695,488 anti-personnel mines.

2. The Committee, while noting that Algeria had reported having released a significant amount of area, concluded that the information provided by it on progress in implementation did not permit comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2011 extension request. The Committee concluded in particular that progress in implementation relative to the projected milestones in its extension request would be welcomed. While Algeria has provided the size of the areas addressed and the quantity of anti-personnel mines destroyed since the entry into force of the Convention, the Committee concluded that it is unclear how many and which areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have actually been addressed.

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<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that while Algeria has provided some clarity concerning its remaining challenge, Algeria could significantly increase clarity by providing information on the location and size of each remaining area that is known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in a manner similar to that provide in its 2011 extension request.

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

4. In its 2011 extension request, Algeria provided a comprehensive work plan leading towards completion of its 1 April 2017 deadline. This plan provides a list of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines broken down by region, length, estimated size, and geographic location. The Committee concluded that, given the difficulty in comparing information reported with the plan contained in Algeria's extension request, it was difficult to understand if Algeria was progressing in a manner consistent with this plan. The Committee further concluded that information would be welcomed on updated projections of areas and area to be released for the remaining years leading to Algeria's 1 April 2017 deadline.

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

5. In its 2011 extension request, Algeria provided a detailed description of its land release methods, undertaken in accordance with the United Nation's International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Algeria further reported that although manual clearance is a slow process, it has been chosen over mechanical clearance because it is more reliable and because of the mountainous and rocky nature of the areas to be addressed in Algeria. The Committee concluded that, since Algeria submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on enhancements that Algeria has undertaken to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

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

6. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) noted that the annual milestones of progress to be achieved, which Algeria included in its extension request, would greatly assist States Parties in assessing progress during the extension period and that reporting relative to these milestones would be of benefit. The Committee recalled that the 11MSP had noted that Algeria has made it clear that it faces difficulties in giving precise dates for completion of work in three specific minefield with specific characteristics including fragmentation mines set in granite rocks and mined area that are covered with sand. In this regard, the Committee concluded that more detailed information pursuant to these commitments would be welcomed.

7. The Committee further concluded that greater comparability with respect to annual milestones for progress provided in its extension request would be welcome.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

8. Algeria reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes for people near suspected areas in order to promote safe behaviour amongst the population. In addition, Algeria further reported that marking of minefields is not always possible due to the security situation.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Argentina**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

1. In 2010 Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Argentina in 2010 to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Argentina had indicated that it did not have effective control over the areas in question.
2. The Committee recalled the ongoing importance, as noted by the Second Review Conference, of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods. The Committee further concluded that Argentina had acted upon its commitment.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Bosnia  
and Herzegovina**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that, in 2014, the 42 square kilometres of “mine suspect area” was released, including 11.97 square kilometres of “mine risk area” having been released (10.12 square kilometres as a result of technical survey and 1.85 square kilometres through clearance operations), 8.33 square kilometres having been declared as “area without defined risk” following “general survey operations” and 21.8 square kilometres “reduced” through “systematic survey operations”. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that it had found and destroyed 1,901 anti-personnel mines in 2014. Bosnia and Herzegovina’s report implies that 396.6 square kilometres of “suspect area” has been released since Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its request for an extended deadline in 2008.

2. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Bosnia and Herzegovina used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e., land that is cancelled, reduced or cleared).

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 19,182 “minefield records” totalling 1,176.5 square kilometres of suspected hazardous area remain to be addressed, with the number of “minefield records” and the amount of area disaggregated according to 13 administrative levels. In addition, Bosnia and Herzegovina further disaggregated the amount of suspected hazardous area according to “I category”, “II category” and “III category” land. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that it estimates that 345 square kilometres is known to contain anti-personnel mines.

4. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina could significantly increase clarity, by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey”. The Committee further concluded that greater clarity could result in using terminology that is consistent with the IMAS, such as “suspected hazardous area” and “confirmed hazardous area”.

5. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

6. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a summary of its plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline. That plan indicated how much area, aggregated to the national level, would be released each year according to various activities. According to this plan, Bosnia and Herzegovina should have released 1,013.9 square kilometres during the period 2009 to 2014 and 541.1 square kilometres would remain as of the end of 2014. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina had released considerably less area than it had projected in its extension request.

7. The Committee concluded that the pace of implementation warranted a revision to Bosnia and Herzegovina’s plans for clearance and survey. The Committee further concluded that information would be welcomed on updated projections of areas and area to be released for the remaining years leading to Bosnia and Herzegovina’s 1 March 2019 deadline.

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

8. In its 2008 extension request, Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee concluded that, since Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on enhancements that Bosnia and Herzegovina has undertaken to ensure efficient and

expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcomed.

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

9. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested that Bosnia and Herzegovina provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP noted that, while the plan presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina's request was workable and ambitious, its success was contingent upon increased performance in technical survey, an ongoing, although decreasing, high level of donor funding and the initiation of and thereafter constantly increased funds provided by local governments. The Committee concluded that increased clarity on how these factors may be affecting implementation would be welcomed.

10. The Committee also recalled that the 9MSP noted the importance of clarity on the part of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding which areas of what size and at what locations remain to be addressed in each administrative area. The Committee concluded that increased clarity on remaining mined areas in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcomed.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

11. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine risk education programmes and the creation and distribution of mine situation maps. In addition, in 2014, 5.38 square kilometres of additional area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines was marked with 906 individual signs. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that, in 2014, there were nine accidents involving mines (including one that occurred during demining) and that six individuals were killed and 10 injured.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Cambodia**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Cambodia reported that, in 2014, five demining operators combined cleared 182,095,237 square meters and destroyed 21,650 anti-personnel mines. The Committee concluded that this progress in implementation could be significantly clarified if Cambodia presented information in such a way that it could be compared with information previously provided by Cambodia. The Committee concluded, in particular, that providing information that allowed for measurability on a geographic basis over time could result if Cambodia reported in a manner that permitted comparability with its "Report on the Results of the Baseline Survey in 124 Districts".

2. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Cambodia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.





## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. Cambodia indicated that there are areas located in the North-Western Province of Cambodia that are known and suspected to contain mines. Cambodia also reported that the Baseline Survey carried out from 2009-2014 revealed a total of 15,172 polygons measuring 1,866,207,895 square meters as areas suspected to contain mines/ERW and that of these, 11,967 polygons with an areas of 1,071,383,958 square meters are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee concluded that the amount of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as a result of the Baseline Survey is significantly greater than that which Cambodia anticipated prior to carrying out this survey.

4. The Committee concluded that Cambodia could significantly increase clarity by providing in accordance with Action # 8 of the Maputo Action Plan information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.” The Committee further concluded that greater clarity could result in using terminology that is consistent with the IMAS, such as “suspected hazardous area” and “confirmed hazardous areas”.

5. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, Cambodia’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

6. Cambodia provided a detailed four year work plan in its 2009 extension request as well as expected clearance productivity rates and costs over the extension period leading towards its 1 January 2020 deadline. The Committee concluded that it was not possible to determine if Cambodia was on track to implement Article 5 in a manner consistent with this work plan. The Committee further concluded that, given that the Baseline Survey resulted in significantly more area having been identified than anticipated, an updated work plan would be welcomed with updated projections of areas and area to be released leading to Cambodia’s 1 January 2020 deadline.

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

7. In its 2009 extension request, Cambodia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the IMAS. The Committee concluded that, since Cambodia submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee further recalled that, given the sizeable increase in area identified by the Baseline Survey and the extraordinarily large amount of area reported having been addressed in 2014, any additional information would be welcomed on methods used to reduce or cancel areas.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had requested that Cambodia provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that

Cambodia had acted upon the commitment made in its extension request to carry out the Baseline Survey and report the findings to the States Parties. The Committee further concluded that it would welcome, as per the decision on Cambodia's request, if Cambodia could provide, based on the results of the Baseline Survey, a single national updated work plan, schedule and budget leading towards its extension deadline of 1 January 2020 taking into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

9. Cambodia 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, including through mine risk education programs. Cambodia has reported that while these activities are awareness raising their focus is on risk avoidance. Cambodia provided information on its overall strategy as well as the efforts put forth by its partners. Cambodia reported that, in 2014, 154 people were reported killed or injured by mines or other explosive remnants of war.

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**Operation and status of the Convention. Presentation, reporting,  
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related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

**Report and Conclusions of the Committee on Article 5  
implementation<sup>1</sup>**

**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Chad**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Chad reported that, in 2014, 11 anti-personnel mines were destroyed and demining activities were carried out in Zouar, Zouarké, Ogui and Bardaï as well as on the Sahr-Kyabé axis. The Committee, in recalling the detailed list of 113 remaining mined contained in Chad's May 2014 provisional plan of action 2014-2019, concluded that Chad could significantly clarify progress in implementation by reporting in a manner that permitted comparability with the information in this plan.

2. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Chad used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee recalled that Chad, in its provisional plan of action 2014-2019, indicated that, as of May 2014, 113 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 104,542,233 square metres remained to be addressed. The Committee concluded that Chad's 2015 report, while indicating that some demining activity had taken place in 2014, did not provide updated clarity on Chad's remaining challenge relative to the information contained in its plan.

4. The Committee also recalled that Chad's provisional plan of action 2014-2019 indicated that not all of Chad's territory has been covered in the plan, with the northern part of the Tibesti region remaining to be surveyed. The Committee concluded that additional information would be welcomed on efforts by Chad to survey and identify mined areas.

5. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, Chad's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

6. Further to the decisions of the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP), Chad, in May 2014, provided a provisional plan leading towards completion by its 1 January 2020 deadline, with this plan summarising which activities (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance) would take place in each region during various periods of time leading to 1 December 2019, and at what cost. The Committee further concluded that, an updated work plan, including detailed geographical milestones to be achieved in the years leading to Chad's deadline in 1 January 2020, would be welcomed.

7. The Committee recalled that the risk factors mentioned in Chad's provisions plan, including political stability and security, remain factors that may affect the implementation of Chad's plan for completion. The Committee further concluded that survey results will affect implementation of Chad's plan.

8. The Committee concluded that success in implementing Chad's provisional plan assumes that Chad will mobilise significantly more external resources than in the recent past. In this context, the Committee concluded that information would be welcomed on Chad's efforts to mobilise resources and the results of these efforts.

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

9. In its 2013 extension request, Chad provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee concluded that, since Chad submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee concluded that Chad may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.

10. The Committee concluded that the application of the most relevant land release standards would be particularly important in Chad given the large amount of area that remains to be addressed. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on

enhancements that Chad has undertaken to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

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

11. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Chad provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that, in addition to this decision, the 13MSP requested Chad to inform the States Parties, by the end of 2015, of the results of the mid-term evaluation of its strategy, including if necessary, providing an updated strategy that takes into account new information.

12. The Committee further recalled that the 13MSP requested that Chad inform States Parties, on an annual basis on issues concerning clarity on the remaining Article 5 challenge, efforts to diversify funding, efforts to address inadequacies in information management and on weather circumstances which had previously impeded the timely implementation of the Convention by Chad and which continued to affect the fulfilment of Chad's obligations. The Committee concluded that additional information on these decisions would be welcomed.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

13. Chad reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programs. The Committee concluded that Chad had provided information on the beneficiaries of these actions disaggregated according to gender and age. In addition, Chad reported that, since 2010, an effort has been made to mark areas, with 17,000,000 square metres being marked, primarily during technical surveys.

14. Chad reported that, in 2014, there were 19 incidents involving mines or other explosive remnants of war resulting in 14 individuals killed and 56 injured. The Committee concluded that the information on casualties provided by Chad was gender and age disaggregated.

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**Report and Conclusions of the Committee on Article 5  
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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Chile**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Chile reported that, in 2014, it released 19 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing a total of 2,139,954 square meters and destroying 12,669 anti-personnel mines. The Committee concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Chile on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2011 extension request. In this regard, the Committee concluded that between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2014, the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been reduced from 151 to 85 and the amount of area reduced from 16,076,793 square meters to 11,052,149 square meters.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that Chile had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to five regions of the country. This list included the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



size of the area concerned per region. Chile reported that, as of the end of 2014, 85 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 11,052,149 square metres, remained to be addressed.

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

4. Chile reported that over the course of 2011-2014 a number of climatic factors including flooding and landslides have affected operations and, as such, have affected the plan submitted by Chile within their request for extension of 2011. Chile reported that it has been forced to reprogram its operations which are continuously monitored and analysed in order to continue with the implementation of Article 5 within the established timeframe. The Committee concluded that Chile provided updated milestones for the following three years with 11 areas totalling 826,705 square meters to be released in 2015, 19 areas totalling 1,374,905 square meters to be released in 2016 and 16 areas totalling 3,145,081 square meters to be released in 2017.

5. The Committee concluded that progress has fallen behind what was expected by this time but that Chile has indicated that its efforts aim to fulfil implementation of its Article 5 obligations within the established timeframe. The Committee further concluded that the modified estimated progress over the next three years (2015, 2016 and 2017) is less than what was estimated would be addressed within Chile's request for extension. The Committee further concluded that an updated work plan, including detailed geographically specific milestones to be achieved in the years leading to Chile's 1 March 2020 deadline, would be welcome.

#### **Efficient and expedient implementation**

6. Chile reported that the process of humanitarian demining in Chile takes as its guide the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) as well as the Chilean Army's Humanitarian Demining Manual. Chile reported that the safety of demining operations, for the deminers as well as for the population, is the main focus for Chile during demining operations.

7. The Committee concluded that, since Chile submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee concluded that Chile may benefit in ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had requested that Chile provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Chile was acting upon the decisions of the 11MSP by providing updates relative to the timelines presented in its request.

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

9. Chile has indicated that mined areas are located in unpopulated border areas located far from population centres and of difficult access and that there is no regular transit of

civilians through these areas. Chile reported that mined areas are all fenced and marked and that information is distributed to tourist, national agencies and private enterprises concerning the locations of mined areas. Chile also reported that its mine risk education campaign is carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in regions that have a presence of anti-personnel mines. These campaigns are carried out in schools within the communes of Arica, Iquique, Antofagasta, Copiapo and Puerto Natales to reinforce campaigns carried out in the past.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Colombia**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Colombia reported that, in 2014, it carried out non-technical survey and clearance in 15 municipalities addressing a total of 543,943 square meters and destroying a total of 240 “artefacts”. Colombia further reported that, in 2014, the municipality of San Francisco became the fourth municipality to be declared “free of suspicion of anti-personnel mines” following non-technical survey and clearance operations. Since Colombia submitted its request for an extended deadline in 2010, Colombia has addressed a total of 1,651,751.74 square meters resulting in a total of four municipalities being declared “free of suspicion of anti-personnel mines” (San Carlos, El Dorado, San Francisco and Zambrano). In addition since Colombia submitted its request, Colombia has completed clearance of mined areas surrounding military bases, releasing 47,831.84 square meters.

2. The Committee concluded that, as Colombia progressively obtains more clarity regarding its remaining challenge and is able to develop plans accordingly, greater measurability of progress in implementation over time could be possible. The Committee further concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Colombia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. Colombia reported that, as a result of the manner in which anti-personnel mines have been used and continue to be used, and ongoing conflict, it is not possible to provide clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee concluded that as Colombia progressively identifies districts and regions where Convention implementation may proceed, information related to increased clarity regarding its remaining challenge would be welcomed.

4. The Committee concluded that Colombia had reported “events” (i.e., accidents or incidents related to anti-personnel mines or other explosive devices) rather than areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Colombia reported that “events” are subject to non-technical survey, which results in either areas being cancelled or classified as confirmed hazardous areas. Colombia reported that of 22,525 “events” recorded between 2006 and 2014, a total of 3,355 have been closed, 19,124 remain open and 45 are currently undergoing non-technical survey.

5. The Committee concluded that Colombia had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table listing, for each Colombian department, the number of events and their status. The Committee concluded that additional information would be welcomed on the size and location of “events” that have been reclassified, as noted in Action # 8 of the Maputo Action Plan, as those that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance or those that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.

6. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge should be further clarified and that it would be welcomed if Colombia would continue to present more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

7. Colombia provided a list of 92 municipalities that have been prioritized for non-technical survey operations and humanitarian demining operations. Colombia further reported that under Colombia’s National Standards on Task Assignment, municipalities need to provide approval and demonstrate willingness to support humanitarian demining efforts and that, over the course of 2014, agreements have been reached with 57 municipalities, with Colombia having provided a list of these communities and the dates when agreements had been signed.

8. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Colombia implies that, of the

92 municipalities that have been prioritised, work is ongoing in seven municipalities in Department of Antioquia (Carmen de Viboral, Cocorná, Granada, La Unión, Nariño, San Rafael, and Sonsón), four municipalities in the Department of Bolívar (Córdoba, El Carmen de Bolívar, San Jacinto and San Juan Pepomuceno), one municipality in the Department of Caldas (Samaná) and two municipalities in the Department of Santander (Sabana de Torres and San Vicente de Chucuri).

9. Colombia’s report referred to its National Demining Plan 2014-2016, which had been presented to the 2014 Third Review Conference. The Committee concluded that,

given updated information obtained by Colombia since that time as well as the importance of quantifying and qualifying the implementation challenge, information would be welcomed on updated projections of areas and area to be released leading to Colombia's 1 March 2021 deadline.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

10. In its National Demining Plan, Colombia reported that it undertakes activities in accordance with the IMAS and that Colombia makes use of, in a linear manner, non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.

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

11. The Committee recalled that the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) had requested that Colombia provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 10MSP had requested that Colombia submit to the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties a revised implementation plan that contains and takes into account a clearer and more substantiated understanding of the location and nature of contamination and that includes revised annual projections of which areas would be addressed when and how. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon the decisions of the 10MSP by providing an updated plan to the 2014 Third Review Conference. The Committee concluded that updates on this plan as Colombia gains clarity of its Article 5 challenge would be welcomed. The Committee further concluded that as the plan covered the period of 2014-2016 an updated plan for the remaining time of its extension period would be welcomed.

12. The Committee concluded that, by having provided a table listing 57 municipalities within which humanitarian demining efforts may proceed, Colombia was acting in a manner consistent with the decision of the 10MSP, which requested that Colombia inform the States Parties of areas where necessary security conditions permit humanitarian demining tasks to be carried out.

13. In recalling that the 10MSP noted that Colombia could benefit from developing as soon as possible a resource mobilisation strategy which included clarity regarding its national commitment during the extension period, the Committee concluded that Colombia's national plan indicates that a working group was established to promote international cooperation and assistance.

**V. Mine risk reduction**

14. Colombia reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including by carrying out mine risk education efforts with a special focus on boys, girls, youth, indigenous communities, Afro-Colombian communities and other individuals with special constitutional protection. Colombia also reported that it is developing emergency mine risk education methodologies.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Croatia**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Croatia reported that, in 2014, it addressed a total of 83,797,356 square meters or area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 37,748,867 square meters cleared and 46,048,489 square meters cancelled. Croatia further reported that these efforts had resulted in the detection and destruction of 1,872 anti-personnel mines, 1,507 anti-vehicle mines and 105,972 items of unexploded ordnance.

2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Croatia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with previous recommendations endorsed by the States Parties.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that Croatia had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of the remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each county and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”) and information on the geographic

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



location of each area. Croatia reported that, as of the end of 2014, a total of 79 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines measuring a total of approximately 120 square kilometres and 59 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling approximately 494 square kilometres, remained to be addressed.

4. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

5. Croatia provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion with this clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that Croatia had provided an updated projection of the number of areas and amount of area to be cleared and reduced in each region and in each year between 2015 and 2019 with 106 square kilometres being addressed in 2015, 88.3 square kilometres being addressed in 2016, 83.26 square kilometres to be addressed in 2017, 65.42 square kilometres to be addressed in 2018 and 4.7 square kilometre to be addressed in 2019 for a total of 347.68 square kilometres. Croatia reported that the remaining suspected hazardous areas will be subject to non-technical survey.

6. Croatia reported that they have an ongoing project financed by the EU for demining of agricultural land with the totality of agricultural land in Croatia to be cleared by 2016 (50 square kilometres). Croatia further reported that with the funds that the government is making available and funds from the Croatian forest company, Croatia will target knownminefields in the forest areas and reduce additional land through non-technical and technical survey projects. The Committee concluded that Croatia had a plan to achieve completion by its 1 March 2019 extended deadline.

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

1. In its 2008 extension request, Croatia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards based on the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In October 2015, the Croatian Parliament adopted a new law regulating mine action, giving the Croatian Mine Action Centre more possibilities to reduce suspected hazardous areas by using technical survey which was not possible under the previous law. New regulations and standard operating procedures are currently being elaborated which will prescribe in detail how mine action activities will take place in the field. The Committee concluded that information on these new regulation and standards operating procedures would be welcome.

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

2. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Croatia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Croatia was acting upon the decisions of the 9MSP by providing updates relative to the timelines presented in its request.

3. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP had requested Croatia to provide updates on its methodology to address forested areas suspected to contain mines. Croatia reported that it has so far prioritized its clearance operations on areas that will enable the return of displaced people and economic development. At the same time, Croatia is working on technology for hyperspectral non-technical survey employing unmanned aerial vehicles with the aim to better analyse and define suspected hazardous areas in forested areas. The Committee concluded that further information on this effort by Croatia would be welcomed.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

4. Croatia 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, including through mine risk education programs. Croatia has reported that it works with a number of diverse organizations to spread safety messages which seek to inform as many citizens at local and national levels as possible. Croatia reported that, in 2014, there was one mine accident with two civilian victims, one of which died from his injuries.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Cyprus**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Cyprus reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Cyprus, in 2012, to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control –that Cyprus had indicated that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question – has not changed and that Cyprus was not aware of any progress in implementation that had occurred. In total between entry into force and its original 1 July 2013 deadline, Cyprus addressed all 20 mined areas under its effective control.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

2. Cyprus reported that there are no areas under the effective control of Cyprus that are known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Cyprus further reported that there are or may be 49 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in areas outside of its effective control and that Cyprus is not aware of the status of these mined areas. The Committee concluded that 28 of these areas in question involve mines emplaced by Cyprus' National Guard prior to entry into force of the Convention. As such, the Committee concluded that Cyprus may be in a position to report, in accordance with Article 7, on the

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



location of these mined areas and include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area.

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

3. The Committee recalled the ongoing importance, as noted by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods. The Committee further concluded that Cyprus had acted upon its commitment.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Ecuador**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Initially, in 1999, Ecuador reported 128 areas totalling 621,035 square meters. On the basis of additional information obtained by Ecuador from surveys and information exchanges between Peru and Ecuador, the number of areas requiring clearance was adjusted to 182 totalled and amount of area adjusted to 619,369.38 square meters.
2. Ecuador reported that, in 2014, it cleared 39,660.5 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and having otherwise released 47,744.5 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 87,405 square meters addressed. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Ecuador in 1999, Ecuador has addressed 160 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 411,240.38 square meters.
3. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

4. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), the types and quantity of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Ecuador reported that, as of the end of 2014, 14 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and eight areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling 208,129 square metres, remained to be addressed.

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

5. Ecuador provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 October 2017 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how and by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had cleared or otherwise released more areas than had been forecast in its extension request. The Committee further concluded that Ecuador has a plan leading to completion by its 1 October 2017 deadline, with 16 areas and part of a 17th area totalling 83,340 square meters to be released in 2015, two areas and part of a third area totalling 80,732 to be released in 2016, and three areas and part of a fortharea totalling 44,057 square meters to be released in 2017.

6. Ecuador reported that one area known to contain anti-personnel mines that totals 43,500 square meters is located in territory handed over by Peru as “private property” of Ecuador as stipulated in the “Brasilia Presidential Act”. Ecuador further reported that demining operations in this area are subject to bilateral agreements between Ecuador and Peru concerning timeframes, budgets and the employment of the binational demining unit. The Committee concluded that further clarity would be welcomed regarding how the status of this area may affect implementation.

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

7. In its 2008 extension request, Ecuador provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Manual on Technical Survey Procedure of Ecuador and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. The Committee concluded that, since Ecuador submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committed concluded that Ecuador may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on enhancements that Ecuador has undertaken to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcomed.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Ecuador to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and

milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Ecuador was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request to proceed with implementation at a constant rate through the extension period. Ecuador's request also indicated that there would be a 100 per cent increase in financing and increases in demining capacity relative to what was the case prior to the request having been made. The Committee concluded that, while Ecuador's reporting did not specify changes to funding and demining capacity, Ecuador was proceeding in a manner that suggested that sufficient funding and capacity were in place.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

9. Ecuador 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, including through mine risk education programs. Ecuador reported that the objectives of these efforts are not solely to prevent injury or death, promoting safe behaviour, but also to find solutions to risky behaviour in some affected communities. Ecuador further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2014.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Ethiopia**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. In its 2015 extension request, Ethiopia indicated that in 2012 the Ethiopian Government dissolved the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) and responsibility of compliance with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has been transferred to the Ministry of National Defence (MoND). Since the closure in 2012 the MoND has been moving forward to implement its plan to address the remaining suspected hazardous areas by building its capacity. Ethiopia report that a total of 67,821,191 square meters of area known to contain anti-personnel mines has been cleared and an additional 1,190,317,900 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines was released, for a total of 1,258,139,091 square meters addressed since entry into force.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

2. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”) and information on the geographic location of each area. Ethiopia reported that, as of the end of 2014, 314 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 1,193,871,634 square metres, remained to be addressed.

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



3. The Committee concluded that greater clarity regarding Ethiopia's remaining challenge would be welcomed by Ethiopia, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, quantifying and qualifying its remaining implementation challenge, with this information including the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.

4. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, Ethiopia's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

5. Ethiopia reported in its 2015 extension request activities to be undertaken during the initial three years of its extension to address remaining suspected hazardous areas. Ethiopia reported that in 2015 it would address a total of 28,551,329 square meters, in 2016 a total of 520,052,907 square meters and in 2017 a total of 652,611,890 square meters. Ethiopia further indicated that in April 2017 it will submit an updated work plan to the States Parties based on more precise information gathered through survey and clearance operations.

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

6. In its 2015 extension request, Ethiopia provided a detailed description of the land release methods utilized to achieve progress to date, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards which are in conformity with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Ethiopia also indicated that the Ethiopian National Defence Combat Engineering Main Department will continue carrying out clearance with all the quality management and managerial experiences of the Ethiopian Mine Action Office. The Committee also concluded that with the dissolving of the EMAO updated informant on the structure that is put in place to fulfil Ethiopia's mine clearance obligation would be welcomed.

7. The Committee concluded that, since the EMAO was dissolved, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.

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

8. In its 2015 extension request, Ethiopia reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programs to mitigate the threat posed by the presence of landmines and sensitize the population about mine action activities, mine risk and safe behaviour. Ethiopia further reported that the role of Community Liaison Officers to link the communities and demining professional clearance, UXO collection and demolition activities was crucial during the project.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Iraq**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Iraq reported that, in 2014, a total of 7,634 mines had been destroyed. The Committee concluded that the information on the number of areas and amount of area addressed by Iraq would be welcomed.
2. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Iraq used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that Iraq provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e. "known" or "suspected"), the types and quantity, when known, of anti-

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Iraq reported that, as of the end of 2015, 292 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and 1,351 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling 311,819,533 square metres, remained to be addressed.

4. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, Iraq's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information, to the extent possible, on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

5. The Committee concluded that, with Iraq's deadline approaching, updated information on Iraq's efforts to implement Article 5 would be welcomed. The Committee concluded that a detailed plan to implement Article 5 would be welcomed, specifically indicating, where possible, what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom, at what costs and employing what methods.

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

6. The Committee concluded that in 2013 the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee concluded that information on the status of its National Mine Action Standards and efforts to carry out survey and clearance in the most effective and efficient way possible would be welcomed.

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

7. Iraq 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, including through mine risk education programs. Iraq further reported 32 new casualties from anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war in 2014.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by  
Mauritania**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Initially, in 2001, Mauritania reported 34 areas totalling 87,725,000 square meters. On the basis of additional information obtained by Mauritania, the number of areas requiring clearance was adjusted to 56 and the amount of area adjusted to 90,017,026 square meters.
2. Mauritania reported that, in 2014, it addressed a total of 1,886,099 square meters of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, identifying and destroying in the process 46 anti-personnel mines, 10 anti-vehicle mines and four pieces of unexploded ordnance. In total since Mauritania submitted its request for extension in 2010, it cleared 62,954,375 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and otherwise released 3,978,391 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 66,932,766 square meters addressed. Since entry into force of the Convention for Mauritania in 2001, it has addressed all 56 areas having cleared 67,111,766 square meters and otherwise addressed 22,905,260 square meters.
3. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Mauritania on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2010 extension request. The Committee further concluded that

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.





this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

4. Mauritania reported that it has addressed all areas known to contain anti-personnel mines. Mauritania further reported that it suspects that mined areas, initially presumed to be within the territory of Western Sahara, may in fact be located in the territory of Mauritania. Mauritania indicated that this uncertainty stems from the fact that there are no natural borders and that border demarcation is unclear and sometimes non-existent. Mauritania further reported that the complexity of the political context in Western Sahara complicates the matter of being able to assess whether additional mined areas exist in Mauritania. The Committee concluded that additional clarity on the locations of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines would be welcomed.

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

5. Mauritania provided in its 2015 extension request activities to be undertaken during the requested five year extension to address the suspicion of additional mined areas. Mauritania indicated that, amongst other things, this would include initiating dialogue with all stakeholders to clarify the situation along the border and maintaining a national capacity to carry out humanitarian demining efforts.

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

6. In its 2015 extension request, Mauritania provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards which are in conformity with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards but adapted to the context in Mauritania.

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

7. The Committee concluded that Mauritania had acted upon its commitments made in its extension request by addressing all areas within its plan. The Committee further concluded that Mauritania had acted upon its commitment to provide information disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

8. Mauritania reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. These include mine risk education programmes Mauritania provided to schools and nomad communities, and messages disseminated through media. Mauritania further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2014

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Peru**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Peru reported that, in 2014, it addressed 6,422 square meters detecting and destroying in the process 452 mines in objective PV2\_05. The Committee concluded that the information on the amount of area cleared, reduced and/or cancelled by Peru would be welcomed. The Committee further concluded that the information provided by Peru on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. In this regard, the Committee concluded that information would be welcomed on progress made relative to the remaining challenge that was expressed in its extension request.

2. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Peru used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. Peru provided a list of 147 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines along its border with Ecuador “Cordillera del Cóndor”, with this list including the types and quantities of emplaced mines and the date of their emplacement, but without the size or estimated size of each area or clarity regarding whether each of these areas remained to be addressed by Peru in the context of its implementation of Article 5.

4. The Committee concluded that greater clarity regarding Peru’s remaining challenge would be welcomed by Peru, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, quantifying and qualifying its remaining implementation challenge, with this information including the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey.

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

5. Peru provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its

1 March 2017 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results were expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that, with Peru’s deadline approaching, updated information on Peru’s plan to complete implementation of Article 5 would be welcomed, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost.

6. Peru reported that during the XII meeting of National Mine Action Authorities of Peru and Ecuador in 2015, Peru and Ecuador took the decision to carry out humanitarian demining operations in various areas of the Square Kilometre of Tiwinza by the Binational Humanitarian Demining Unit of Peru and Ecuador. In this area a total of three mined areas will be addressed in 2015 and a further four mined areas will be addressed in 2016.

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

7. In its 2008 extension request, Peru provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the IMAS and the Manual of Procedures for Humanitarian Demining of the Republic of Peru developed in 2004, which was based on the IMAS.

8. The Committee concluded that, since Peru submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee concluded that Peru may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on enhancements that Peru has undertaken to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcomed.

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

9. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Peru to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee also recalled that the 9MSP noted a commitment on the part of Peru to proceed to implement Article 5 at a more constant rate through the extension period. The Committee concluded that Peru was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request to proceed with implementation of its plan presented within its extension request.

**VI. Mine risk reduction**

10. Peru reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programs. Peru further reported that in 2014 there was one new anti-personnel mine casualty, with a deminer injured.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Senegal**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. In its initial extension request submitted in 2008, Senegal indicated that its original challenge amounted to 149 suspected hazardous areas, including 85 areas totalling approximately 11,183,359 square metres, 47 areas including 73.45 linear kilometres of roads or paths and 17 areas of an unknown size. At the time, Senegal also indicated that 231 localities had not been visited, 171 of which were inaccessible and 60 localities had been abandoned.

2. In its extension request submitted in 2015, Senegal reported that since its initial extension request, of the 149 suspected hazardous areas, 131 areas were released, including 88 areas released by non-technical survey, 17 areas released by technical survey and 26 areas released by clearance. In addition, of the 171 inaccessible localities, 60 could be visited and 54 of these localities were cancelled by non-technical survey. Of the 60 abandoned localities, 33 localities were cancelled either by survey or clearance. In addition, Senegal reported that further non-technical surveys were conducted in 298 localities resulting in 288 localities being cancelled.

3. The Committee concluded that, while the information provided by Senegal on progress in implementation contained details on each area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines that has been released with the data being disaggregated by activity

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



(non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), it did not always permit comparability with information provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further concluded that greater comparability with annual milestones of progress provided in extension requests would also be welcome.

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

4. Senegal reported that a total of 64 areas, 52 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 478,328.195 square metres and 12 suspected hazardous areas of an unknown size remain to be addressed. In addition, Senegal reported that 216 localities of the Ziguinchor region totalling an estimated size of 1,600,000 square metres and which include in the remaining 111 inaccessible localities, will need to be surveyed.

5. Senegal reported that demining activities have to be considered in the context of the fragile peace process. Senegal further reported that it has initiated a dialogue with all stakeholders of the Casamance crisis and that activities in Casamance, including humanitarian demining, will be conducted if an agreement is reached by all parties involved. This way of proceeding favours safety over speed with the deployment of clearance teams in localities providing the highest guarantee of security.

6. The Committee, while noting the developments in the ongoing peace negotiations in Casamance and their impact on humanitarian demining activities, concluded that additional clarity on the locations of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines would be welcome.

7. The Committee concluded that with further survey activities planned during the period of the extension request and a number of localities remaining inaccessible at present, Senegal's remaining challenge will need to be further clarified when additional information becomes available.

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

8. In its extension request submitted in 2015, Senegal reported that in 2016, non-technical surveys are planned to be conducted in 137 localities and that technical survey and clearance are planned in 47 areas totalling 374,508.195 square metres, in 2017 non-technical surveys are planned in 79 localities and technical survey and clearance are planned in 7 areas totalling 303,820 square metres, in 2018, technical survey and clearance are planned in 2 areas totalling 310,000 square metres, in 2019, technical survey and clearance are planned in 2 areas totalling 310,000 square metres and in 2020, technical survey and clearance are planned in 1 area totalling 300,020 square metres.

9. The Committee concluded that Senegal's plan may be affected by the security situation and accessibility of areas which are due to be surveyed and that these factors may influence the implementation the plan. The Committee further concluded that information acquired by the conduct of additional surveys will affect the implementation of the plan.

10. The Committee concluded that Senegal presented a plan which relies in part on the mobilisation of external financial contributions and that information on efforts by Senegal to mobilise these resources and outcomes of these efforts would be welcome.

## **IV. Efficient and Expedient Implementation**

11. In its 2015 extension request, Senegal indicated that it developed National Mine Action Standards based on the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards

(IMAS). These provide information on its land release methods and specify criteria used to cancel land through non-technical and technical survey. Senegal reported that it updated its National Mine Action Standards in 2013 with the support of experts.

## **V. Mine Risk Reduction**

12. In 2014, Senegal reported on the actions it took in 2013 to effectively exclude the populations from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine education programmes. These included mine risk education programmes provided in localities suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as well as the use of local community radios to disseminate messages to populations. Senegal reported that in 2013, there were 6 new casualties -5 men and 1 woman - resulting from anti-personnel mines, 4 of which died from their injuries.

13. The Committee concluded that while Senegal had provided information on mine risk reduction, including disaggregated data on new casualties, updated information would be welcome.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Serbia**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. While initially, in 2004, Serbia had reported 44 areas totalling 5,906,791 square meters, the number of areas increased to 68 and the amount of area increased to 9,372,006 square meters on the basis of additional information obtained by Serbia from surveys.
2. Serbia reported that, in 2014, it cleared 270,616 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and otherwise released 106,000 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 376,616 square meters addressed. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Serbia in 2004, Serbia has addressed 49 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 6,447,426 square meters.
3. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Serbia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

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<sup>1</sup> Late submission.





## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

4. The Committee concluded that Serbia had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to nine localities. This table includes the number of areas, the amount of area in each locality and the status of the area (i.e. all areas are considered “suspected”). Serbia reported that, as of the end of 2014, 19 suspected hazardous areas totalling 2,849,126 square metres remained to be addressed. This included area in Bujanovac that had been reclassified from confirmed hazardous area to suspected hazardous area to ensure that the area is addressed by the most cost effective means.

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

5. Serbia provided a plan in its 2013 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected where, when, how, by whom and at what cost. In 2015, Serbia reported that it had adjusted its plan, with it projected that, of the remaining 2,849,126 square meters of suspected hazardous area, approximately 1,600,000 square meters will be cleared and 1,200,000 square meters released following surveys. Serbia reported that 400,000 square meters will be cleared in 2015, 1,649,126 square meters surveyed and 600,000 square meters cleared in 2016, and 600,000 square meters expected to be cleared in 2017. The Committee concluded that Serbia had a plan to achieve completion well before its extended deadline.

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

6. In its 2013 extension request, Serbia provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In its 2015 report, Serbia provided a further description of the approach it is taking to land release, which appears to take into account the emphasis that the IMAS places on the need for evidence to define areas as either confirmed or suspected hazardous areas.

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

7. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Serbia provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP had requested that Serbia keep the States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia’s national financial contribution to implementation, efforts to mobilise external resources, and the results of these efforts. Serbia reported that in 2014 it received funds from the United States of America through the International Trust Fund (ITF).

8. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP, in noting that all survey activities were scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015, requested that Serbia submit to the States Parties by 1 March 2016 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee, while noting that Serbia had reported in 2015 a plan leading to completion by end of 2017, concluded that providing an updated plan in 2016 would still be welcomed in order to keep the States Parties apprised of any changing circumstances.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

9. Serbia has reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine risk education programs. Serbia reported that, in accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, people are evacuated and traffic is suspended, and that this is coordinated with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by South  
Sudan**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. In 2014, South Sudan reported having cleared 8,190,190 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and having otherwise released 1,133,571 square meters of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 9,323,761 square meters addressed. In total since entry into force of the Convention for South Sudan in 2011, South Sudan has addressed 406 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 63,547,584 square meters.

2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by South Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with recommendations endorsed by the States Parties.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that South Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



each area, the status of each area (i.e. “known” or “suspected”) and information on the geographic location of each area. South Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2014, 310 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel totalling 95,819,427 square metres remained to be addressed.

4. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by <sup>presenting</sup> more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

5. In 2015, South Sudan reported that it will undertake the development of a multi-year clearance plan which takes into consideration the known hazardous areas, historical patterns for resources available to the mine action sector, as well as the prevailing operational and security environment in various regions of the country and that this plan will be published in subsequent Article 7 reports and updates will be provided to States Parties. The Committee concluded that updated information on South Sudan’s plan to complete implementation of Article 5 would be welcomed, specifically indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost.

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

6. In 2015, South Sudan reported that all land release efforts are carried out based on South Sudan National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) which are based on the most up-to-date International Mine Action Standards. South Sudan further indicated that once survey is completed it is either cancelled through non-technical survey or prioritized for technical survey and clearance.

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

7. South Sudan 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, including through mine risk education programs and marking of mined areas. South Sudan further reported that it prioritises internally displaced persons, returnee settlements and schools for Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities and that South Sudan works with UNMAS to train and accredit all MRE teams according to national standards. South Sudan further indicated that it is working with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, with the support of UNICEF, to develop a teacher’s guidebook to be launched officially for use in all public and private primary schools as well as teacher training colleges. South Sudan reported that there were 38 new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2014.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Sudan**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Sudan reported that, in 2014, it addressed a total of 3,653,104 square meters of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 2,469,368 square meters cleared, 898,524 square meters reduced and 285,212 square meters cancelled. Sudan further reported that, in 2014, it addressed a total of 17 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and destroyed 171 anti-personnel mines, 95 anti-vehicle mines and 2,976 items of unexploded ordnance.

2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with previous recommendations endorsed by the States Parties. The Committee also concluded that clarifications would be welcomed with respect to some minor discrepancies in the information provided by Sudan on the status of programmes for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas.

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e. “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area. Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2014, 58 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,889,180 square meters and 50 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 18’115’237 square metres remained to be addressed.

4. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, Sudan’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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

5. Sudan provided a detailed plan in its 2013 extension request covering the period 2013-2015 and projections of the number of areas and amount of area to be released each year from 2013 to 2019, leading towards completion by Sudan’s 1 April 2019 deadline. Sudan, in its 2015 report, provided a revised number of areas per state that it intends to address during the period 2015 to 2019. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Sudan on its national plans for clearance and survey supported comparability of information from year to year and allowed for clarity regarding the implementation relative to Sudan’s plan. The Committee further concluded that Sudan’s ambition to address 61 areas in 2015 was greatly in excess of the pace of implementation in the recent past.

6. The Committee concluded that Sudan had cleared or otherwise released fewer areas and less area than had been forecast in its extension request. The Committee concluded that, given that fewer areas and less area have been released than was anticipated in the plan and given that Sudan has reported having had to address additional hazards since the 2013 plan was presented, any updates regarding Sudan’s plan to complete implementation of Article 5 would be welcomed.

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

7. In its 2013 extension request, Sudan provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. In its 2015 report, Sudan provided additional details on its land release process. The Committee concluded that, as Sudan has reported that it is reviewing its national technical standards, Sudan may, in the near future, be able to provide additional information on the application of the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, pursuant to Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Sudan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request.

9. The Committee concluded that Sudan had reported in detail on each of these matters. The Committee further concluded that, with respect to information provided on survey efforts and on the security situation, Sudan reported that conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was continuing to impede implementation of Article 5, including by preventing survey activities from taking place. The Committee also concluded that, with respect to information on financing, Sudan reported that it received significantly less funding in 2014 than it had projected that it would need in its extension request.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

10. Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through the marking of hazardous areas. Sudan also has a national mine risk education programme that involves the Ministry of Education and uses social media to disseminate messages.

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**Report and Conclusions of the Committee on Article 5  
implementation<sup>1</sup>**

**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Tajikistan**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Tajikistan reported that, in 2014, it cleared 654,791 square meters of area known to contain anti-personnel mines and otherwise released 1,357,762 square meters of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 2,012,553 square meters addressed. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Tajikistan in 2000, Tajikistan has addressed a total of

212 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 59,639,850 square meters.

2. The Committee further concluded that the information provided by Tajikistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability. The Committee concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that Tajikistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to seven regions of the country. This list included the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.





the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Tajikistan reported that, as of the end of 2014, 107 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and 149 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling 11,743,848 square metres, remained to be addressed.

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

4. Tajikistan provided a detailed plan in its 2009 extension request leading towards completion with this clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. Tajikistan reported that the plan presented in its request is not reflecting the current situation due to alteration in the planned activities, management issues, land release capacity and remaining contamination. Tajikistan reported that two new operators began operations in Tajikistan in 2010 and additional mechanical assets and mine detection dogs were introduced. Tajikistan further reported that financial shortages began in 2014.

5. Tajikistan reported that as the plan presented in its extension request is no longer relevant, Tajikistan is currently developing a new Article 5 completion plan which reflects the current situation and includes a detailed plan to address remaining contamination throughout Tajikistan. The Committee concluded that, with Tajikistan's deadline approaching, updated information on Tajikistan's plan to complete implementation of Article 5 would be welcomed, specifically indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost.

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

6. In its 2009 extension request, Tajikistan provided a detailed description of its land release methods noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) which take their lead from the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Tajikistan reported that based on experiences gained during the last years, best international practices, new land release methodologies and new operational conditions, three new chapters were developed for the Tajikistan National Mine Action Standards (TNMAS) and that the 22 existing chapters of the TNMAS were updated and revised by the NMAS Review Board in 2014.

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

7. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested that Tajikistan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee Concluded that Tajikistan had acted upon its commitment to provide clarity on the situation on the Tajik-Uzbek border.

8. The Committee further recalled that the 9MSP had noted the benefit Tajikistan could draw from increasing its frequency of contact with donors and by clearly communicating the socio-economic development benefits that would flow from completing Article 5 implementation and concluded that more information on this effort would be welcomed.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

9. Tajikistan reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. This has included providing mine risk education (MRE) to people living in the mine and other ERW impacted communities. Tajikistan reported that these efforts have been successfully mainstreamed into other national programs carried out by the Ministry of Education, Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and Committee of Emergency Situation. Tajikistan indicated that the school-based risk education has been an effective method of reaching many children and that these students play a significant role in reaching out to the communities with mine awareness methods. Methods used in 2014 included teacher-to-child, children-to-parents, child-to-child and peer-to-peer education. Tajikistan reported that lack of funds negatively affected some aspects of the MRE program. Tajikistan further reported that comprehensive MRE activities have contributed to a significant reduction in the number of landmine casualties with only two accidents occurring during 2013 and 2014.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Thailand**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Thailand reported that, in 2014, it cleared 228,911 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and otherwise released 24,835,068 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 25,063,979 square meters addressed and with 1,493 anti-personnel mines having been destroyed. In total during the period 2000-2014, Thailand has addressed 2,564,880,277 square meters, including 62,997,982 square meters having been cleared and 2,027,625,401 square meters reduced.

2. The Committee concluded that additional information on progress in implementation that would provide clarity and comparability with information provided by Thailand in its 2008 extension request would be welcomed, including information on progress reported that is more geographically specific according to area cleared, reduced or cancelled.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that Thailand had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



each area and information on the geographic location of each area. Thailand reported that, as of 31 December 2014, 328 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 474,256,894 square metres remained to be addressed, with mined areas located in 17 of Thailand's provinces.

4. The Committee concluded that Thailand could increase clarity concerning its remaining challenge by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on "the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey."

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

5. Thailand provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 November 2018 deadline with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results were expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that the remaining challenge as of 2015 (i.e. 474,256,894 square meters) is significantly larger than the expected remaining challenge estimated for Thailand in its request by 2015 (254,350,000 square meters). In this regard, the Committee further concluded that it would be welcomed if Thailand could provide an updated work plan indicating what geographical and quantified results it expects to accomplish by its extended deadline of 1 November 2018.

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

6. In its 2008 extension request, Thailand provided a description of its land release methods including its Locating Minefield Procedure (LMP), which was intended to complement clearance. The Committee concluded that, since Thailand submitted its request, the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee concluded that Thailand may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on enhancements that Thailand has undertaken to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcomed.

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

7. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Thailand to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP noted that significant progress was expected, through Thailand's Locating Minefields Procedure, to overcome impeding circumstances such as the manner in which the Landmine Impact Survey in Thailand had hindered implementation efforts. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Thailand had reported that a significant amount of suspected hazardous area had been released since Thailand's extension request was considered. The Committee also recalled the commitments made by Thailand in its 2008 extension request related to enhancing and strengthening close cooperation at the regional level and building national

capacity. In this regard, the Committee concluded that information pursuant to these commitments would be welcomed.

## **VI. Mine risk reduction**

8. Thailand reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programs. Thailand also included a list of public awareness and outreach activities carried out in Bangkok and local communities around Thailand employing various communications means including social media.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Turkey**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Turkey reported that, in 2014, the Turkish Armed Forces cleared 157,251 square meters. Turkey further reported that this amount of area had not yet been deducted from the total of the remaining area requiring survey or clearance because the cleared area cannot be certified. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Turkey in 2004, Turkey has addressed six areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 1,150,297 square meters.

2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

**II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

3. The Committee concluded that Turkey had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a table summarising the total, per province, of the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, the estimated size of area, where known, and the number of emplaced anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, where known.

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



Turkey reported that, as of the end of 2014, 3,080 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 172,688,003 square meters and 701 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with an unknown amount of area, remained to be addressed.

4. Turkey indicated that information on areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been modified relative to that previously provided for a variety of reasons including the fact that detailed analysis and comparison of mine clearance reports and reports prepared following incidents caused by animals, wildfires or landslides had been undertaken and corrections were made.

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

5. In its 2013 extension request, Turkey provided an overview of which regions would be addressed each year from 2015 to 2022, along with an estimated amount of area that would be released each year. In 2014, Turkey provided additional information on the implementation of its plan, as requested by the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP).

6. The 13MSP also requested Turkey to submit to the States Parties, by 1 March 2015, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension, with this work plan containing an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organization, and a detailed budget. Turkey submitted an updated work plan on 17 March 2015, with it containing the following main elements:

(a) With respect to mined areas in locations other than borders, the armed forces will address 280 areas totalling 1,514,913 square meters, with the number of areas per province and amount of area (if known) specified on an annual basis each year from 2015 to 2021. Areas that are not planned to be cleared by the mine clearance units of the Turkish Armed Forces but will be addressed in accordance with the Mine Action Plan: 593 totalling 1,592,936 square meters, with the number of areas and amount of area specified to be addressed during the period 2015-2022.

(b) With respect to Turkey's eastern borders, 223 areas totalling 11,669,907 square meters will be addressed in phase #1 during the period 2015-2017. A second phase of activity would take place during the period 2017-2019 with the number of areas and total area to be addressed to be determined on the basis of ongoing surveys.

(c) With respect to Turkey's south-eastern border, 969 areas totalling 2,862,835 square meters will be addressed during the period 2019-2021.

(d) With respect to Turkey's border with Syria, mine clearance activities will commence following the settlement of armed conflicts in Syria and the preparation of a Strategic Mine Action Plan by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC).

7. The Committee concluded that, out of a total 3,781 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling an estimated 172,688,003 square metres, Turkey plans to address 2,065 areas totalling 17,640,591, along with an unknown amount of additional area along its eastern borders following the results of surveys and the possibility of additional areas along its border with Syria depending upon the settlement of armed conflicts in Syria. The Committee further concluded that the vast majority of the areas (1,392) and area (144,290,431 square meters) not yet specified to be addressed in Turkey's plan are along its border with Syria. In addition to the areas along Turkey's border with Syria, an additional 324 areas totalling 10,756,981 square meters have not yet been specified to be addressed in Turkey's plan. The Committee concluded that due to the

ongoing unpredictable situation with respect to Turkey's border with Syria Turkey's plan at present suggests that it might not be able to complete implementation of Article 5 by its deadline in 2022.

8. The Committee concluded that, as was noted by the 13MSP, the timeliness of tendering and contracting processes, the establishment of a NMAA and NMAC, and cooperation with the European Union remain factors that might affect the implementation of Turkey's plan for completion. The Committee further concluded that additional factors that might affect implementation of the Turkey's plan will be the nature of information acquired from surveys and ongoing conflict in Syria in areas bordering Turkey.

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

9. In its 2013 extension request, Turkey provided information concerning its land release methods, noting that all land release activities are based on the standards and principles in its Syrian Border Mine Clearance Standards, which are based on the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Turkey further indicated in its request that, although these standards were developed exclusively for the Syrian border, they are applicable for the clearance of other areas. In its 2014 report, Turkey reported that land release standards will be applied after they are defined by the NMAC.

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

10. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP had requested that Turkey provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Turkey complied with the 13MSP decision requesting Turkey to submit, to the States Parties, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. In submitting this plan, Turkey indicated that this work plan will be finalized by the NMAC, that there is an ongoing detailed exploration of mined areas in border regions, and that, as a result, further revisions to the plan are possible. The Committee concluded that, as further revisions to the plan are possible, ongoing updates by Turkey on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcomed.

11. In granting Turkey's request for an extended deadline, the 13MSP noted that, with speedy establishment of a NMAA and a NMAC, Turkey may find itself in a situation wherein it could complete implementation before its extended deadline. In this regard, Turkey reported that a law on the establishment of a NMAC was adopted on 22 January 2015 and entered into force on 3 February 2015. Turkey further reported that the process of establishing the NMAC has started and that a mine action strategy for the period 2016-2022 will be submitted to the Council of Ministers in 2015. The Committee concluded that updated information on the establishment of the NMAC and progress on ongoing operations on its border would be welcomed.

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

12. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with these actions including fencing and marking as well as mine risk education programmes. Turkey further reported that there were 26 new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2014.



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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by United  
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Initially, in 2008, the United Kingdom reported 117 areas totalling 13,149,000 square meters. On the basis of additional information obtained by the United Kingdom by ongoing survey and clearance activities, the amount of area in question was adjusted to 13,528,430 square meters.
2. The United Kingdom reported that, during the period October 2009 to 30 May 2015, three phases of clearance operations and part of a fourth were completed with 19 areas and 1,180,340 square meters of area released through mine clearance and an additional 3,673,000 square meters of non-landmine tasks (i.e. tasks undertaken to address unexploded ordnance) released through battle area clearance.
3. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom had provided a high degree of clarity with respect to areas and area cleared and that the information provided by the United Kingdom on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through mine clearance and area released through battle area clearance.

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge**

4. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area and information on the geographic location of each area. The United Kingdom reported that, as of 30 May 2015, 98 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 12,348,090 square metres remained to be addressed.

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

5. The United Kingdom indicated that for the last trimester of 2015, 15 areas totalling approximately 928,000 square meters would be addressed, that further work, which is under regular review due to the lack of mine records, will result in additional areas being released – much of this area is broadly referred to as ‘Eliza Cove’ – and that battle area clearance would release 1,189,204 square meters of area presumably containing ordnance other than anti-personnel mines. The Committee concluded that further clarity would be welcomed regarding whether the areas to be addressed which are related to “Eliza Cove” and those subject to battle area clearance fall under the scope of Convention obligations.

6. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom’s plan for 2015 represent a significant increase in ambition. The Committee further concluded that, notwithstanding this ambition, the United Kingdom’s pace of implementation suggests that it may not be able to complete implementation of Article 5 by its deadline in 2019.

7. The United Kingdom reported that several challenges to demining, including the geographical location of the mined areas, limited absorption capacity for demining operations due to limited medical facilities for deminers and adverse weather conditions, concerns about environmental impact, incomplete minefield records, and a difficult financial climate, will become increasingly significant as the later phases of demining seek to tackle the more remote and technically-challenging minefields.

8. The United Kingdom further reported that it is reviewing how it may address these challenges as it seeks to fulfil its Article 5 obligations, and hopes to continue with demining without a significant delay. The Committee also concluded that, as the United Kingdom had not provided plans to implement Article 5 beyond 2015, further updates by the United Kingdom on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcomed.

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

9. The United Kingdom reported that it applies the United Nations’ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in its demining operations, as well as local environmental and planning regulations.

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

10. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested that the United Kingdom provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom complemented its annual Article 7 submission in 2015 by providing the Committee with detailed additional information and making “mine exploitation reports” available.

**V, Mine risk reduction**

11. The United Kingdom reported that there are effective fences and minefield marker warnings in place around all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, that schoolchildren are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings as appropriate.

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**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Zimbabwe**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Ecuador,  
Ireland, Poland and Zambia)**

**I. Progress in implementation**

1. Zimbabwe reported that, in 2014, it cleared 412,629 square meters of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and having otherwise released 7,710 square meters of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 412,629 square meters addressed. The Committee concluded that information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2014 extension request. In this regard, the Committee concluded that information would be welcomed on progress made relative to the remaining challenge that was expressed in its extension request.

2. The Committee further concluded the importance of Zimbabwe continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of provinces, the number of remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines with this list including the estimated size of contamination in the provinces, and information on the geographic location of each area.

<sup>1</sup> Late submission.



Zimbabwe reported that, as of the end of 2014, 202 areas known to contain mines remained totalling 62,443,206 square meters.

4. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe could increase clarity on its remaining challenge by, if possible, annexing a table to its Article 7 report which includes details on each area known to contain anti-personnel mines.

## **II. National plans for clearance and survey**

5. Zimbabwe provided an updated work plan in 2015 with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee further concluded that Zimbabwe's plan includes information concerning the milestones to be met over the course of its extension period including the clearance of 1,241,500 square meters in 2015, the clearance of 1,963,400 square meters in 2016 and the clearance of 2,134,000 square meters in 2017. The Committee concluded that in some areas, Zimbabwe estimates up to 60 per cent could be reduced through technical survey efforts.

## **III. Efficient and expedient implementation**

6. In its 2013 extension request, Zimbabwe does not provide a detailed description of its land release methods, indicating that as suspected hazardous areas cleared and released were known minefields the method used to release land in these areas was manual demining through full clearance. Zimbabwe also indicated in its request that the Zimbabwe National Mine Action Standards (ZNMAS 01) were approved as a legal document with effect from 1 July 2013 and that all mine action organisations have started operation based on these standards.

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

7. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested that Zimbabwe provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested that, given that survey activities are scheduled to be completed by September 2014, which should result in an accurate understanding of the remaining implementation challenge, Zimbabwe submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request and keep the States Parties regularly apprised of progress in meeting the milestones in Zimbabwe's request.

8. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request by submitting an updated work plan within its Article 7 report and keeping the States Parties informed of progress in implementation of the commitments it has made in its extension request and highlighting the plans of the HALO Trust and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to increase its capacity.

9. The Committee concluded that updated information concerning the commitments of Zimbabwe related to the moving of the mine action centre out of military installations as well as the development of a national strategic plan would be welcomed.

## **V. Mine risk reduction**

10. Zimbabwe has reported that during technical survey carried out in most areas danger warning signs were erected by the HALO Trust and NPA and that in other areas fences were erected to prevent people and animals from straying into the minefield and that mine marking signs (danger warning signs) with inscribed mine warning messages have been posted and in some area triangular beacons have been erected to warn of the danger. Zimbabwe further indicated that mine risk education (MRE) teams in 2014 carried out MRE in Rushinga general area, at provincial agricultural shows and at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair but stated that campaigns were limited due to lack of funding. Zimbabwe further reported that the HALO Trust and NPA conduct community liaison and MRE within areas of their responsibility. Zimbabwe further reported that there were six new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2014.

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