

CONCLUSIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION

(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland and Zambia)

PART 1: Introduction

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee met for the first time on 17 January 2017 to discuss its work plan for the year and has met regularly since. On 25 January 2017 the Committee wrote to the States Parties which indicated that they would need to submit a request for extension - Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe - to recall to them the process for requesting an extension established by the States Parties.
2. On 9 February 2017, the Committee organised an Informal Discussion on Reporting on the Implementation of Article 5 on the margins of the United Nations' annual meeting of mine action directors, in which directors of mine action programmes representing 12 States Parties participated. The Committee used the opportunity to build further awareness on the content and utility of the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties and emphasise the importance of the information submitted by the States Parties for the implementation of the Committee's mandate.
3. During the United Nations' annual meeting of mine action directors, the Committee held bilateral meetings with representatives of the States Parties which indicated that they would need to submit a request for extension in 2017 - Angola, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe - in order to discuss progress in the development and submission of their requests. In addition to meeting with these States, the Committee also met with Mauritania and Sudan to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing their mine clearance obligations.
4. On 3 March 2017, the Committee wrote to five State Parties - Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal - which were due to submit updated work plans and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by Meetings of the States Parties on their requests for extension.
5. On 9 March 2017, the Committee held bilateral meetings with Eritrea, Ethiopia and Senegal in order to discuss progress in the development and submission of their updated work plans.
6. On 19 March 2017, the Committee wrote to the 32 States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 obligations to recall the 30 April deadline for providing updated information on implementation in accordance with Article 7 and to stress the importance of respecting this deadline, given the short timeframe between the deadline and the intersessional meetings of 8-9 June. The Committee also informed States Parties on how it would proceed in preparing preliminary observations for the intersessional meetings and encouraged the use of the Guide to Reporting.
7. On 5 April 2017, the Committee met with a delegation from Ukraine to continue its dialogue concerning the country's non-compliance with Article 5 of the Convention. The Committee

urged Ukraine to submit a request for extension of its Article 5 deadline as soon as possible in order for the Committee to begin its work of analysis of the request in accordance with the decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties on Ukraine.

8. On 2 May 2017, the Committee sent a letter to States Parties and interested organisations to inform them of the receipt of requests for extension submitted by Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand and Zimbabwe.
9. On 9 May 2017, the Committee reached out to expert organisations to request input on requests for extension submitted to date, in accordance with the process established by the States Parties for the analysis of requests.
10. On 9 May 2017, the Committee met with Mozambique, a State Party which declared completion in 2015 but which has since discovered a previously unknown mined area. The Committee recalled to Mozambique the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties concerning situations in which States Parties discover previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed.
11. On 10 May 2017, the Committee wrote to States Parties with deadlines in 2019 – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan and the United Kingdom - recalling to them the process for requesting an extension, should they find themselves in a situation where they will not be able to fulfil their obligations under Article 5 by their respective deadlines.
12. On 19 May 2017, the Committee sent a letter to States Parties and interested organisations to inform them of the receipt of the request for extension submitted by Angola.
13. During the 8-9 June intersessional meetings, the Committee presented its preliminary observations to States Parties. States Parties concerned were requested to provide relevant updates or corrections so that conclusions can be developed by the Committee for the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP).
14. During the 8-9 June intersessional meetings, the Committee had bilateral meetings with four States Parties that submitted extension requests - Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand and Zimbabwe - to transmit questions on their requests based on their initial assessment and expert input. The Committee also met with States Parties that had not submitted updated work plans based on previous decisions on their requests (Ethiopia and Niger). The Committee met with a third State Parties that submitted an updated work plan (Senegal).
15. The Committee also met with Ukraine to continue its dialogue concerning Ukraine's status of non-compliance. The Committee reiterated its readiness to support Ukraine and its call to urgently submit its extension request.
16. On 30 June 2017, the Committee wrote to States Parties that had not reported on progress made in the implementation of Article 5 within their Article 7 transparency reports (Angola, Eritrea, Niger, Peru, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) to encourage them to submit their Article 7 transparency reports as soon as possible. The Committee also wrote to States Parties which had submitted information on progress made in the implementation of Article 5 within their Article 7 transparency reports to request any additional information. The Committee requested that the information be submitted by 4 August 2017.

17. On 30 June 2017, the Committee wrote to States Parties that had not submitted updated work plans (Eritrea, Ethiopia and Niger) to request that they do so as soon as possible but no later than 1 August 2017. In addition, the Committee wrote to Senegal concerning information submitted in their updated work plan.
18. On 30 June 2017, and in follow-up to the bilateral meetings held during the intersessional meetings, the Committee wrote to States Parties that submitted requests for extension to transmit their questions and comments on the respective requests. Additionally, the Committee wrote to Ukraine to recall the bilateral meeting held with the Committee during the intersessional meetings taking the opportunity to reiterate the offer of the Committee's support and urging Ukraine to submit its request as soon as possible.
19. On 4 September 2017, in the margins of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Committee met with Mozambique to discuss the situation in Mozambique concerning its efforts to address previously unknown mined areas encouraging close and ongoing communication between the Committee and Mozambique in the lead up to the 16MSP. Furthermore, on 5 September, the Committee met with Angola to learn about the status of their revised extension request and to urge Angola to submit its revised extension request as soon as possible to permit a sound analysis by the Committee.
20. Over the course of September, the Committee finalised its conclusions and recommendations on the implementation of Article 5 by States Parties and its work on preparing analysis of each requests for extended deadlines under Article 5 submitted by States Parties. In drafting its conclusions and recommendations the Committee followed the same methodology employed by the Committee in 2016.

II. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation

21. At the close of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties (15MSP), 32 States Parties had reported having an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention. Since the 15MSP:
 - Algeria has reported having fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention;
 - Mozambique has indicated having identified previously unknown mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.
22. Of the 32 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, until 15 August 2017, the following had provided information on progress in implementation:
 - a. 27 States Parties submitted Article 7 transparency reports containing updated information on implementation of Article 5: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Mozambique, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
 - b. Of the four States Parties that were due to submit updated work plans pursuant to decisions taken on their requests for extended deadlines – Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger and Senegal – only one State Party – Senegal – submitted an updated work plan.
 - c. Of the six States Parties that indicated they would need to submit a request for extension for consideration of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties – Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe – five submitted requests for

extension – Angola, Ecuador, Iraq Thailand and Zimbabwe. Subsequent to discussions between the States Parties and the Committee, these five States submitted revised requests for extension.

- d. In spite of the Committee's best efforts and sustained dialogue since the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties, as of 15 September 2017, Ukraine has still not submitted a request for extension in accordance with the decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties and the extension request process established by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

- 23. Of the 32 States Parties which have reported that they were still in the process of implementing Article 5 of the Convention, as of 15 August 2017, 5 did not submit article 7 reports to update information on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Niger and Somalia.

III. Conclusions of a general nature

- 24. The Committee concluded that by engaging directly with States Parties, the number and quality of Article 7 reports could be further increased. 2017 has seen an increase in reporting as four additional States Parties with Article 5 obligations as compared with 2016 (23 States reported in 2016) provided reports. The Committee observed that the five States Parties that did not report in 2017 had also failed to report in 2016 and 2015 and concluded that a specific engagement will be required with these States Parties.
- 25. The Committee observed that, of the 32 States Parties that are in the process of implementing Article 5, few have submitted reports by the deadline of 30 April. The Committee further observed that, despite efforts to encourage its use, more than half of States Parties with Article 5 obligations have not used the Guide to Reporting which could be of considerable assistance in providing clarity concerning progress and status in implementing Article 5 commitments. The Committee concluded that additional efforts are required to engage with States Parties at an early date to ensure timely and qualitative submission of Article 7 reports.
- 26. The Committee was grateful for – Afghanistan, Argentina, Cambodia, Chile, Ecuador, Mauritania, South Sudan, Sudan, Senegal, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – having employed parts of the Guide to Reporting to provide as much clarity as possible concerning their remaining challenge and progress made.
- 27. The Committee continues to be concerned about States Parties with Article 5 obligations that have not submitted Article 7 transparency reports (Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Niger and Somalia). The Committee recalls that of these States Parties, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Niger and Somalia, also failed to submit Article 7 transparency reports in 2016. The Committee recalls that the submission of an Article 7 report on an annual basis is an obligation under the Convention and it is even more important given that these States Parties are implementing core obligations under the Convention.
- 28. The Committee observed that some States Parties have not yet adopted the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action

Plan. The Committee also observed that amendments made by States Parties to their national standards are not always shared in accordance with Action #9. The Committee concluded that direct engagement with concerned States Parties is needed to ensure the implementation of the IMAS and remedy the lack of transparency.

29. The Committee observed that in a number of cases progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States implementing Article 5 obligations used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS (e.g. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”; disaggregating data by activity that is nontechnical survey, technical survey and clearance; reporting progress according to the result of each activity that is land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared). The Committee concluded that direct engagement with concerned States Parties is needed to ensure the proper use of this terminology.
30. The Committee observed that a number of States Parties could provide additional clarity regarding their 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 location of each area in conformity with the Guide to Reporting. The Committee concluded that direct engagement with concerned States Parties is needed to increase clarity.
31. The Committee observed that a number of States Parties continue to face challenges in implementing their Article 5 commitments due to a number of factors including large areas pending to be addressed, funding challenges and security concerns. The Committee concluded that it is essential for States Parties to continue to clearly report on the challenges they face in implementing their Article 5 commitments. The Committee further concluded that States Parties facing challenges in implementation could consider taking part in the Convention’s *individualized approach* led by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.
32. The Committee observed that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, a number of States Parties face challenges associated with other explosive remnants of war and UXOs. In these States Parties, efforts to implement Article 5 are only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards. The Committee concluded that, this being the case, it is important that States Parties continue to disaggregate their contamination in order to ensure clarity concerning the remaining challenge.
33. In recognising that the definition of an “anti-personnel mine” makes no reference to it being manufactured or “improvised”, the Committee concluded that it is important that States Parties affected by these type of anti-personnel mines include them as part of their overall Article 5 implementation challenge.
34. The Committee recalls that the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties concerning situations in which a State Party discovers mined areas, including newly mined areas, after its original or extended deadline to implement Article 5 has expired is pertinent and must be applied by States Parties finding themselves in situations foreseen by that decision.
35. Acknowledging the valuable contribution of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention’s Implementation Support Unit, the Committee concluded that States Parties requiring

assistance are best served by directly engaging with the ISU in order to benefit from its advice and support in matters concerning the implementation of Article 5.

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Table 1: Status of implementation of Article 5 of the Convention¹

State Party	Total released in 2016 (square metres)				Remaining challenge as of 2016 (square metres)		
	Cancelled	Reduced	Cleared	Total	Suspected Hazardous Area	Confirmed Hazardous Area	Total
Afghanistan	3, 055,110	449,116	27, 121,910	30, 626,136	84, 449,815	147, 664,998	232, 114,813
Angola ²					103, 970,384	141, 057,978	245, 028,362
Argentina ³							
Bosnia & Herzegovina ⁴	46, 943,820	10, 391,001	1, 335,179	58, 670,000	1, 091,000	315, 575,000	316, 666,000
Cambodia				132, 284,116			2, 342, 137,953
Chad				649,432			104, 542,233 ⁵
Chile			3, 523,646	3, 523,646	3, 144,778	2, 506,312	5, 651,090
Colombia			287,661	287,661	51, 244,350	0	51, 244,350
Croatia	3, 204,465		38, 263,980	41, 468,445	446, 600,000	0	446, 600,000 ⁶
Cyprus ⁷							
Democratic Republic of Congo ⁸							
Ecuador	3,267		1,410	4,677	100,496	0	100,496
Eritrea ⁹							
Ethiopia ¹⁰							
Iraq				28, 825,692	232, 009,310	963, 556,422	1, 195, 565,732 ¹¹
Mauritania						1, 000,000	1, 000,000
Mozambique							1,881
Niger ¹²							
Oman							
Peru	4,784	25,747.51	18,317.24	48,848.75			426,325
Senegal			58,494	58,494	0	529,027.276	529,027.276
Serbia					2, 630,340	0	2, 630,340
Somalia ¹³							
South Sudan	17, 166,302	71,399	10, 538,076	27, 775,777	80, 904,786		80, 904,786
Sudan	1, 503,676	2, 337,945	1, 044,104	4, 885,725	2, 604,237	16, 533,048	19, 137,285
Tajikistan	659,436	294,835	496,796	1, 451,067	1,970,000	7,764,256	9, 734,256
Thailand	27, 728,657	71,537	394,238	28, 194,432	422, 605,172	0	422, 605,172
Turkey			122,764	122,764			172, 565,239
Ukraine ¹⁴							
United Kingdom ¹⁵							
Yemen ¹⁶				4, 703,279			323, 480,306
Zimbabwe	6, 297,977	3, 179,056	1, 671,315	11, 148,348	0	66, 230,103	66, 230,103
Total	106, 567,494	16, 820, 636.51	84, 877, 890.24	374, 728, 539.75¹⁷	1, 433, 324, 668	1, 662, 417, 144.28	6, 038, 893, 868.28¹⁸

Table 2: Status of implementation of Maputo Action Plan (MAP) Actions #8-11¹⁹

State Party	Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2017	Level of clarity ²⁰ on the remaining implementation challenge (Action #8)	Reported on the establishment and application of the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies (Action #9)	Reported on the provision of mine risk reduction and education programmes (Action #10)	Use of the Guide to Reporting in the preparation of Article 7 report submitted in 2017
Afghanistan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Angola					
Argentina	√				√
Bosnia & Herzegovina	√	Clarity	√	√	
Cambodia	√	Some clarity	√	√	√
Chad	√	Some clarity		√	
Chile	√	High degree of clarity		√	√
Colombia	√	Some clarity	√	√	√
Croatia	√	Some clarity	√	√	
Cyprus	√				
Democratic Republic of Congo					
Ecuador	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Eritrea					
Ethiopia	√	Some clarity	√		
Iraq	√	Clarity	√	√	
Mauritania	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Niger					
Oman	√				
Peru	√	High degree of clarity			
Senegal	√	Some clarity	√	√	√
Serbia	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Somalia					
South Sudan	√	Clarity	√	√	√
Sudan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Tajikistan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Thailand	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√
Turkey	√	Some clarity	√	√	√
Ukraine	√	Clarity			
United Kingdom	√	Some clarity	√	√	
Yemen	√	Clarity	√	√	√
Zimbabwe	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√

¹ Source: Information provided by States Parties in their Article 7 reports submitted until 5 October 2017, unless otherwise noted.

² Angola's Article 5 extension request submitted on 11 May 2017.

³ In 2010, Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Argentina 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.

⁴ Bosnia and Herzegovina reported progress and remaining challenge in kilometres squared. These figures have been converted to metres squared for the purpose of this table.

⁵ Chad's provisional plan of action 2014-2019 indicates that, as of May 2014, 123 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 104,542,233 square metres remained to be addressed and that part of northern Tibesti remained to be surveyed.

⁶ Croatia reported progress and remaining challenge in kilometres squared. These figures have been converted to metres squared for the purpose of this table.

⁷ Cyprus reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Cyprus, to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Cyprus had indicated that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question.

⁸ The Democratic Republic of Congo did not submit an Article 7 report for calendar year 2016.

⁹ Eritrea did not submit an Article 7 report for calendar year 2016.

¹⁰ Ethiopia's Article 7 report indicates the identification and destruction of 30 items of ordnance, including 10 ATMs and 20 UXOs were destroyed. However, the report does not include information on the amount of land addressed.

¹¹ Information on remaining challenge retrieved from Iraq's Article 5 extension request submitted on 28 August 2017.

¹² Niger did not submit an Article 7 report for calendar year 2016.

¹³ Somalia did not submit an Article 7 report for calendar year 2016.

¹⁴ At the 15MSP, Ukraine reported that over the period 2015-2016, it cleared and / or verified a total of 200,000,000 square metres.

¹⁵ The United Kingdom's Article 7 report indicates clearance of 25 SHAs as well as a non-minefield area. However, the report does not include information on the amount of land addressed.

¹⁶ Yemen's reporting period is as given in its Article 7 Report, 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017.

¹⁷ The total of this column is not the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on areas released in a disaggregated manner.

¹⁸ The total of this column is not the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on the remaining challenge in a disaggregated manner.

¹⁹ Source: information provided by States Parties in their Article 7 Reports submitted until 5 October 2017, unless otherwise noted.

²⁰ In accordance with the methodology described in part I of "Preliminary Observations of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation".

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Afghanistan

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Afghanistan reported that in 2016 it released 267 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing 30,626,136 square metres, 27,121,910 square metres cleared, 449,116 square metres reduced and 3,055,110 square metres cancelled, and destroying 13,869 anti-personnel mines, 443 anti-tank mines, and 10 abandoned improvised explosive device (AIED) and 148,131 items of unexploded ordnance. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Afghanistan was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided allowed for comparability with that provided in 2015 as well as milestones in Afghanistan's 2012 extension request. The Committee noted that between April 2013 and 31 December 2016, the number of confirmed (CHA) and suspected hazardous areas (SHA) had been reduced from 3,439 to 2,485 and the total area from 266.4 square kilometres to 232.1 square kilometres.

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, including the estimated size of each area according to the seven contaminate regions of the country. Afghanistan reported that 2,164 CHAs totalling 147,664,998 square metres and 321 SHAs measuring 84,449,815 square metres remain to be addressed.
4. The Committee noted that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and other explosive remnants of war also pose extreme risks to the civilian population and to the implementation of development activities. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Afghanistan's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Afghanistan. The Committee noted the importance of Afghanistan continuing to disaggregate the challenge of anti-personnel mine contamination.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. Afghanistan provided a detailed plan in its 2012 extension request leading towards completion, with it clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee noted that progress in 2016 did not reach projection outputs for clearance and survey.
6. The Committee noted the commitment of Afghanistan to review the work plan on a continuous basis and that Afghanistan and the States Parties as a whole would benefit if Afghanistan could inform the States Parties of changes to the work plan.

7. The Committee recalled its 2016 conclusions that Afghanistan reported at the end of 2015 a total of 2,578 hazardous areas measuring a total area 239,464,868 square metres remaining to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee noted that at the beginning of the current reporting period, January 2016, Afghanistan reported a total number of hazardous areas to be 2,752 measuring 251,070,035 square metres.
8. The Committee noted that Afghanistan provided an updated projection of outputs for clearance and survey in each of the seven administrative regions contaminated with anti-personnel mines from 2017 to 2022, with an overall goal for Afghanistan to address 2,017 confirmed and suspect hazardous areas measuring 209,252,432 square metres, as follows: 69,349,672 square metres to be addressed in 2017, 41,199,630 square metres to be addressed in 2018, 39,049,860 square metres to be addressed in 2019, 24,663,980 square metres to be addressed in 2020, 32,007,511 square metres to be addressed in 2021 and 2,981,779 square metres to be addressed in 2022.
9. The Committee noted 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, (2,017) and amount of area (209,252,432 square metres), falls short of the number of areas (2,485) and amount of area, (232,114,813 square metres), that Afghanistan has reported as remaining to be addressed. In this regard Committee welcomes annual updates on the impact of new hazards and re-survey on current capacities, annual clearance and survey plans. It would be welcome if Afghanistan could indicate how future work plan and budget projections take into consideration changes in these milestones.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

10. Afghanistan reported that the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS 05.01 Land Release) were amended and updated in July 2013 right after the release of the IMAS 07.11 for land release. These AMAS were reviewed by the AMAS Review Board and approved for application in Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). Subsequently, the SOPs of all demining organisations have been revised based on the requirements of these new AMAS and approved by DMAC. The Committee noted that Afghanistan had attached the relevant AMAS chapter to their report.

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

11. The Committee recalled that the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Afghanistan to 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 by providing updates relative to annual milestones for progress as contained in its extension request.
12. Afghanistan provided an update of its Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) that has been conducted in 285 districts covering 22,751 communities from which 1,297 communities were already impacted and 21,454 communities were unknown. The Committee concluded that further information on the impact of survey results on Afghanistan's annual work plan would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

13. 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. The Committee noted that this included ensuring appropriate marking of hazardous areas, as well as providing mine risk

education (MRE) to people living in the mine- and other ERW-impacted communities, with a specific focus on returnees and internally displaced people.

14. The Committee noted the challenges in the implementation of risk education including insecurity that limits access to some areas, and inadequate funds that prevent risk education programmes reaching all targeted populations.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Argentina

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

1. In 2010, Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded its ability in 2010 to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas 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 concluded that Argentina had acted upon its commitment.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2016, 58.67 square kilometres of suspected hazardous area was released (46.95 square kilometres cancelled through non-technical survey, 10.39 square kilometres reduced through technical survey and 1.33 square kilometres released through clearance) destroying 1,313 anti-personnel mines, 63 anti-tank mines and 1,192 explosive remnants of war.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina continuing to provide information on progress disaggregated according to areas released through clearance, reduction or cancellation. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 19,283 “minefield records” remain to be addressed disaggregated according to three entities/districts. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that there are 4,285 “locations” known to contain mines with an estimated 73,483 mine and unexploded ordnance and an estimated area of 315.75 square kilometres. Additionally, 8,636 “locations” are suspected of containing mines with an estimation of more than 73,483 mines and UXO and an estimated area of 1,091 square kilometres. In this regard, 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 IMAS.
4. 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 as well as their estimated contamination.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. 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. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided an updated summary of milestones to be achieved in the period of 2017-2018 indicating that a total of 255.2 square kilometres is to be addressed with 165 square kilometres estimated to be cancelled, 76.56 square kilometres to be reduced and 13.64 square kilometres to be cleared.

6. The Committee observed that the amount of area to be addressed represents a sharp increase from 2016 and would welcome information on the reason for this estimated increase. The Committee further observed that following 2018 approximately 835.8 square kilometres would remain to be addressed. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the plan to address contaminated areas including the specific geographical location where activities will take place.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted three chapters within its standards: non-technical survey (in accordance with IMAS 08.10), technical survey (targeted technical survey and systematic technical survey in accordance with IMAS 8.20) and Land Release (in accordance with IMAS 7.11). Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) has commenced amendments and annexes for all chapters of Standards for Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Standing Operational Procedures for Humanitarian Demining.
8. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina would 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. The Committee concluded that it would welcome further information on efforts to update its national standards.
9. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that a draft Demining Law has been shared for public consultation and forwarded to the Council of Ministers for adoption. The BHMIC also initiated the process of drafting its Exit Strategy of Mine Action (2019-2025) to be adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2017.

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 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, a high level of donor funding and the sustained and increasing availability of funds provided by local government. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina was making advances in efforts to increase its survey performance. The Committee concluded that increased clarity on how these factors may be impacting implementation would be welcome.
11. The Committee concluded that increased clarity on remaining mined areas in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

12. 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.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Cambodia

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Cambodia reported that in 2016, 132,284,116 square metres of land was addressed, destroying in the process 13,049 anti-personnel mines. Cambodia reported that from 1992 to December 2016 a total of 1,544,958,524 square metres has been addressed destroying in the process 1,036,376 anti-personnel mines, 24,251 anti-tank mines and 2,660,638 UXOs.
2. Cambodia also reported that in 2016 baseline survey was on-going in 21 districts, identifying 549 polygons measuring 81,830,520 square metres. During the same period, Cambodia reported to address 15 hazardous areas measuring 328,589 square metres in 4 districts. Cambodia reported that as of December 2016, 471 polygons measuring 69,223,336 square metres in 20 districts-the district of Svay Leu was not included in the final table on baseline survey-remained to be addressed by the baseline survey.
3. The Committee encourages Cambodia to report progress in baseline survey using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee concluded that Cambodia could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee noted that Cambodia provided some clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table with precise perimeters and locations of areas known anti-personnel mines. Cambodia reported a total of 17,652 hazardous areas remaining, totalling 2,342,137,953 square metres.
5. The Committee noted that the Baseline Survey is on-going until 2020. The Committee concluded that, with the baseline survey ongoing, Cambodia's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas, size and status of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.
6. 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 clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey". The Committee further concluded that Cambodia could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

7. Cambodia reported that it was developing a new National Mine Action Strategy 2017-2025 which aims to provide better comprehensive directions for mine action in Cambodia. The Committee concluded that, given that the Baseline Survey resulted in significantly more area having been identified than anticipated, an updated work plan with updated projections of areas and area to be released leading to Cambodia's 1 January 2020 deadline would be required.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. 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 noted as it did in its 2016 conclusions 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 concluded that information on any amendments made to Cambodia's standards in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.
9. Cambodia reported that the remaining contaminated land will be released through fully complied land release methodology, especially application of non-technical survey, estimated roughly 35% of the total release. In this regard the Committee underlines the need to provide more clarity with regard to which areas are known to contain mines and those who are suspected to contain them. The Committee further recalled that, given the sizeable increase in area identified by the Baseline Survey, any additional information on methods used to reduce or cancel areas would be welcome.

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

10. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had requested Cambodia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that Cambodia had acted upon the commitments made in its extension request to carry out the Baseline Survey and report the findings to the States Parties. The Committee further noted as it did in its 2016 conclusions that, based on the results of the Baseline Survey, a single national updated work plan, schedule and budget leading towards its extended deadline of 1 January 2020 taking into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators, would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

11. Cambodia reported in detail on nine main actors involved in providing Mine Risk Education and the actions individually and collectively taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The programmes include the use of sports as well as being integrated into mine action activities. Cambodia reported that it is currently developing an MRE Action Plan, (2017-2025) which will include a review of MRE materials and messages to ensure their ongoing appropriateness and effectiveness.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Chad

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Chad reported that in 2016, demining activities were carried out in Zouar, Zouarké in Tibesti destroying 94 anti-personnel mines. Chad further reported that 649,432 square metres were demined and “verified”. The Committee concluded that, while indicating that some demining had taken place in 2016, information provided did not indicate precisely which of the 123 remaining areas have been addressed and progress did not include information on demining activities in the Borkou and Ennedi regions as indicated by Chad’s plan of action 2014-2019. The Committee 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 IMAS. The Committee also concluded that Chad could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Chad provided some clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table with mine affected locations. The Committee recalled that Chad, in its provisional plan of action 2014-2019, indicated that, as of May 2014, 123 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 104,542,233 square metres remained to be addressed and that part of northern Tibesti remained to be surveyed. In this regard, Chad reported that in 2015, 14 new hazardous areas had been identified as a result of non-technical survey activities in Tibesti and in the south of the country. Chad further reported that, as of the end of May 2015, 123 areas were known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.
4. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Chad’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the exact number (127 or 123), respective geographical locations and sizes of all areas required to be addressed, including by providing a detailed list of the newly discovered areas as well as further efforts by Chad to survey, identify and release mined areas. The Committee further concluded that Chad could considerably increase the clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. Further to the decisions of the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP), in May 2014 Chad provided a provisional plan leading towards completion by its 1 January 2020 deadline, with this plan summarising which activities would take place in each region during various periods of time leading to 1 December 2019, and at what cost.
6. The Committee recalled that the risk factors mentioned in Chad’s provisional plan, including political stability and security, remain factors that may affect the implementation of Chad’s plan

for completion. The Committee further noted that survey results will affect implementation of Chad's plan.

7. The Committee noted that success in implementing Chad's provisional plan would require that Chad mobilises significantly more external resources than in the recent past. Other than a contribution from the European Union (PADEMIN project), Chad has not reported on any other external contribution and the Committee noted that information on Chad's efforts to mobilise other resources and the results of these efforts would be welcome.
8. Given ongoing survey activities, unknown effects of risk factors and lack of clarity regarding resource mobilisation the Committee concluded that an updated work plan, including detailed geographical milestones to be achieved in the years leading to Chad's deadline on 1 January 2020 is necessary.

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 IMAS. The Committee noted 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 also noted that Chad did not use the IMAS terminology (e.g. SHA, CHA) in its transparency report and instead used terminology not found in the IMAS (e.g. "verified"). The Committee strongly recommended the consistent use of IMAS terminology including in art. 7 reports and the clarification of non-standardised terminology.
10. 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. The Committee concluded that information on any amendments made to Chad's standards 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) requested that Chad inform 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. In addition, the 13MSP requested that Chad inform States Parties on an annual basis of issues concerning clarity on the remaining Article 5 challenges, efforts to diversify funding, efforts to address inadequacies in information management, and of developments in the conditions 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 that information on these actions and factors remain outstanding.

VI. Mine risk reduction

12. In 2016, Chad reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through MRE programmes in a region (région du lac) that has not been reported previously to contain CHAs or SHAs. The Committee concluded that clarity on this issue would be welcome. The Committee further concluded that Chad had provided information on the beneficiaries of these actions disaggregated according to gender.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Chile

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Chile reported that in 2016, it released 25 areas addressing a total of 3,523,646 square metres and destroying 100,276 anti-personnel mines and 50,126 anti-tank mines. The Committee concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.
2. In this regard, the Committee noted that between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2015 the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been reduced from 151 to 45 and the amount of area reduced from 17,289,098 square metres to 5,651,090 square metres. 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.

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 size of the area concerned per region. Chile reported that, as of the end of 2016, 40 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,506,312 square metres and 5 areas suspected to contain mines totalling 3,144,778 square metres remained to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

4. The Committee concluded that Chile provided updated milestones for the period of 2017-2020 with 14 areas totalling 2,748,492 square metres to be released in 2017; 12 areas totalling 954,176 square metres to be released in 2018; 15 areas totalling 2,883,267 square metres to be released in 2019; and 1 area totalling 19,683 square metres to be released in 2020. The Committee concluded that the modified estimated progress for the period of 2017-2020 is more than the amount of area indicated by Chile as remaining to be addressed while the number of areas to be addressed are more than that reported by Chile to be pending. The Committee would welcome information on this matter.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

5. Chile reported that the process of humanitarian demining in Chile takes as its guide the 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.

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

6. The Committee recalled that the 11MSP had requested Chile to 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.

VI. Mine risk reduction

7. Chile reported that mined areas are located in unpopulated border areas far from population centres and with difficult access, and that there is no regular transit of civilians through these areas. Chile reported that all mined areas are 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 schools within the communes of Arica, Iquique, Antofagasta and Tarapaca to reinforce campaigns carried out in the past.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Colombia

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Colombia reported that in 2016 287,661 square metres of area suspected or known to contain anti-personnel mines were released. In the process Colombia destroyed 210 anti-personnel mines and 14 UXOs. Colombia also reported that 8 municipalities are now free of suspicions of mines with a total area of 947,639 square meters having been cleared destroying 724 “artefacts” in the process. Colombia reported that in an additional 29 municipalities where mine action operations have taken place or are currently taking place a total of 1,775,114.02 square metres have been addressed with a total of 1,205 “artefacts” having been destroyed.
2. The Committee concluded that, as Colombia obtains more clarity regarding its remaining challenge, and is able to develop more specific work plans; greater measurability of progress in implementation is possible. The Committee further concluded that it would welcome information on progress from Colombia to determine the extent of the problem including by reporting in a disaggregated manner on results of all release methods incl. non-technical survey efforts.
3. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Colombia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. Colombia estimates that the remaining suspected contamination totals 51’244’350 square metres. Colombia indicated that this amount of SHA has been calculated considering the following:
 - a. “Events” in Colombia’s information management system have been divided into two periods, 1990–2009 and 2010–2015. For both these periods, events that are “open” have been considered;
 - b. Based on the results of current humanitarian demining operation, 15% of events from the first period (1990-2009) and 24% of events from the second period (2010-2015) are anticipated to generate a CHA;
 - c. An additional 20% has been added to both periods anticipating CHAs which will be located during non-technical survey, again based on results of current humanitarian demining operations;
 - d. For each possible CHA, an estimated area of 5’000 square metres has been calculated.
5. The Committee noted that information previously submitted by Colombia indicated that by the end of 2015 Colombia reported the same amount of suspected contamination remaining to be addressed as it is reporting for the end of 2016. The Committee concluded that it would welcome an update concerning the remaining contamination.
6. Colombia reported that in 2016 it carried out non-technical survey in 456 rural districts (veredas) identifying a total of 104 CHAs. The Committee noted that Colombia’s updated plan indicated that

from 2014-2016 non-technical survey has been carried out in 1,270 areas resulting in 418 CHAs. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on how this is accounted for within the total amount of contamination identified in Colombia.

7. The Committee concluded that Colombia has provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table listing the number of events for each Colombian department. The Committee concluded that additional information would be welcome 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 requiring further survey.
8. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing the remaining challenge would be further clarified and that Colombia should present more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

9. Colombia reported that for 2016-2018 it intends to intervene in 207 municipalities with a total expected contamination of 24,259,613 square metres. Colombia reported that for 2017 a total of 36 municipalities will have mine action interventions in 707 rural districts (veredas). The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the efforts that will be carried out in these municipalities as well as a timelines for these activities.
10. Colombia reported that in 2016 the Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade was activated with close to 5,200 men, the capacity of Explosive and Demining Marines was augmented from 106 to 183 people, 4 civilian organisations were accredited and the capacity for external quality monitoring of humanitarian demining operations was expanded from 17 to 48 monitors. The Committee would welcome additional information on how this will impact the overall efforts of meeting Colombia’s deadline of 2021.
11. The Committee concluded that continued updates on its plan as Colombia gains clarity of its Article 5 challenge would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

12. Colombia reported in its 2014 National Demining Plan 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. A detailed list with disaggregated by CHA and SHA and the means to address them would be welcome.

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

13. 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 and keeping the States Parties informed on progress in implementation.

VI. Mine risk reduction

14. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Colombia on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Croatia

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Croatia reported that in 2016 it addressed a total of 41,468,445 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 38,263,980 square metres cleared as well as 3,204,465 square metres reduced and cancelled. These efforts resulted in the destruction of 1,536 anti-personnel mines, 542 anti-vehicle mines and 11,780 UXOs. In addition, the Croatian Armed Forces reported the clearance of an area of military facilities measuring 454,917 square metres.
2. The Committee concluded that Croatia could more clearly present implementation progress by using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Croatia had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing the number of remaining CHAs and SHAs according to 10 counties and military facilities. Croatia reported that, as of the end of 2016, “mine suspected areas”, totalling approximately 446 square kilometres remained to be addressed. The Committee would welcome clarity on Croatia’s remaining challenge given that at the end of 2015 a total of 467.4 square kilometres remained to be addressed and that over the course of 2016 it addressed 41.5 square kilometres.
4. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of the remaining CHAs and SHAs in each county, 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. In this context, the Committee would find it valuable if Croatia could clarify the status of the military facilities (i.e. are they included in the number of 446 square kilometres of “mine suspected areas”) and also clarify if the “mine suspected areas” include both SHA and CHA.
5. The Committee also 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.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. Croatia provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion with this plan clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide 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 2017 and 2019.

7. In 2016, Croatia reported its ongoing project financed by the European Union continues to target known minefields located in the forest areas. These areas have been identified as priority by local and regional governments.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. The Committee recalled that 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 IMAS. The Committee also recalled that in October 2015, the Croatian Parliament adopted a new law regulating mine action, giving the Croatian Mine Action Centre more possibilities to reduce SHAs by using technical survey which was not possible under the previous law and that new regulations and SOPs are currently being elaborated which will prescribe in detail how mine action activities will take place in the field. As in its 2016 conclusion, the Committee concluded that information on these new regulations and SOPs would be welcome.

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 Croatia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled specifically that the 9MSP had requested Croatia to provide updates on its methodology to address SHAs in forested areas. Croatia reported that it has so far prioritised 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 SHAs in forested areas. As in its 2016 conclusions, the Committee concluded that further information on this effort would be welcomed.

VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Croatia has reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through MRE programmes. Croatia has reported that it works with a number of diverse organisations to spread safety messages which seek to inform as many citizens at local and national levels as possible.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Cyprus

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Cyprus reported in 2012 that the sole circumstance that impeded its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas reported to be under its jurisdiction or control – namely 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 that has occurred. In total, between entry into force of the Convention and its original 1 July 2013 deadline, Cyprus has addressed all 20 mined areas under its effective control.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

2. Cyprus reported that, since July 2013, there are no anti-personnel mines on territory under the effective control of Cyprus. Cyprus reported that the only known mined areas are located in the part of its territory outside of its effective control and that at least 20 mined areas are yet to be cleared of anti-personnel mines, with one of these areas located within the buffer zone, in the vicinity of the village Deryneia.
3. Cyprus reported that it has taken concrete steps to ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in minefields and submitted to UNFICYP information on 28 known mined areas and that, according to information released by UNFICYP, those 28 minefields were subject to non-technical survey by UNMAS, and according to its assessment only 3 of them require further technical survey.

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

4. 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 concluded that Cyprus had acted upon its commitment.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Ecuador

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Ecuador reported that, in 2016, it addressed one area, clearing a total of 1,410 square metres and cancelling a total of 3,267 square metres for a total area addressed of 4,677 square metres. Ecuador reported that since 1999 to present it addressed 178 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totaling 498,508.38 square metres and destroyed 11,431 anti-personnel mines, 74 anti-tank mines and 24 explosive remnants of war.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Ecuador on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in manner consistent with IMAS. The Committee noted the importance of Ecuador continuing to provide information on progress made, disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of remaining objectives known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines by geographical area including the estimated size of each area, the types and quantity of anti-personnel mines in each area. Ecuador reported that, as of the end of 2016, 59 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totaling 100,496 square metres containing 3,774 anti-personnel mines remained to be addressed.
4. The Committee noted that Ecuador had indicated that it has identified 26 new suspected hazardous areas with a total of 7,521 square metres. Ecuador further reported that these new areas do not include coordinates or points of reference and that these areas have been identified for verification. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing Ecuador's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number and size of the areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. The Committee noted that Ecuador submitted a request for extension in 2017 to be considered by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in which it provided a five year work plan (2018-2022), indicating what geographical and quantified results were expected when, how, and by whom. Ecuador reported in its request that it plans to address all suspect hazardous areas in accessible areas by the end of 2022, targeting 2 areas measuring 26,159 square metres in 2018, 9 areas measuring 12,555 square metres in 2019, 10 areas measuring 8,431 square metres in 2020, 10 areas measuring 10,340 square metres in 2021 and, 26 areas measuring 7,521 square metres in 2022.
6. Ecuador further reported that an area of 35,490 square metres is to be released within the "Square Kilometre of Tiwintza". This work will be planned and carried out in prior coordination

with Peru, as the humanitarian demining operations will be carried out by the Bi-national Demining Unit Ecuador – Peru. The Committee concluded that a work plan to address this area with clear milestones would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. The Committee concluded that in its request submitted in 2017 extension request Ecuador provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the IMAS and the Manual on Technical Survey Procedure of Ecuador. Ecuador further reported on the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Ecuador to submit a detailed request, in accordance with the established process, by 31 March 2017, in order for Ecuador and the States Parties to benefit from a cooperative exchange on the request. The Committee concluded that Ecuador had acted on its commitment to submit a detailed request by 31 March 2017.

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.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Ethiopia

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Ethiopia reported that, in 2016, 30 items of ordnance identified through reports from the public including 10 ATMs and 20 UXOs were destroyed. The Committee noted that limited activities were carried out by Ethiopia in the implementation of the plan presented in its 2015 request for extension.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Ethiopia on progress in implementation did not permit comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2015 extension request. The Committee noted in particular that information on progress and the projected milestones defined in its extension request are missing and further information is required. When providing information Ethiopia is encouraged to use terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing the number of remaining CHAs (45) and SHAs (269) according to six regions of the country.
4. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia 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 concluded that Ethiopia could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.
5. 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.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. The Committee noted that Ethiopia provided a detailed plan in its 2015 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 June 2020 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how and by whom and at what cost. The Committee noted that Ethiopia did not report having released the areas that had been forecast in its extension request and did not provide any information on Article 5 implementation.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. The Committee recalled that in its 2015 extension request, Ethiopia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that it employs “National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and Standard Operating Procedures which, with the support of Norwegian People’s Aid, had been updated in accordance with amendments to IMAS”.
8. 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, continue to be applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee concluded that information on this matter would be welcome.

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

9. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested Ethiopia to provide updates on progress relative to a number of commitments contained in section 14 of its extension request including outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ethiopia’s understanding of the remaining implementation challenge; updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in terms of SHAs and CHAs in line with the IMAS; update on the development of plans to carry out survey activities on the Eritrean/Ethiopian border; resource mobilization efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Ethiopia to support implementation, and efforts to attract international mine action operators or advisors to offer technical support to Ethiopia, and; changes to the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia has not acted in accordance with the 14MSP decision and that information on these actions and commitments would be welcome.
10. The Committee further recalled that the 14MSP noted that Ethiopia provided a detailed work plan in its request up until the end of 2017 and noted that it would be beneficial if Ethiopia would submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2017, an updated work plan including an updated list of all CHAs and SHAs, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and a detailed budget. The Committee concluded that as of 30 September 2017 an updated work plan has not been submitted by Ethiopia. The Committee further concluded that an updated work plan would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

11. The Committee noted that Ethiopia did not report on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs. The Committee would welcome information on this matter.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Iraq

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Iraq reported that, in 2016, it addressed a total of 28,825,692 square metres, with 13,753,075 square metres of clearance in areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines, 14,237,346 square metres in areas of mixed contamination and 835,270 square metres of areas affected by anti-tank mines. Iraq reported that through these efforts a total of 42,393 explosive devices were destroyed.
2. The Committee concluded that the information shared by Iraq could be further clarified by using terminology consistent with the IMAS. The Committee further concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States implementing Article 5 obligations used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee noted the importance of Iraq continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance, reduction or cancellation.

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 including in this list the estimated size of each area, the types and quantity, when known, of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area.
4. Iraq reported that a total of 3,554 hazardous areas measuring 1,195,565,732 square metres remain to be addressed. Consisting of 2,897 areas confirmed to be hazardous representing 963,556,422 square metres and 657 areas suspected to be hazardous measuring 232,009,310 square metres. 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 and size of areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. The Committee noted that Iraq submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. In the request Iraq provided a 10 year clearance work plan, (2018-2027), with IKMAA and DMA providing a detailed work plan for the period 2018-2019 based on current capacity available. The Committee concluded that more specific information on its non-technical survey efforts would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

6. The Committee noted that Iraq has reported applying current land release standards to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.

V. Mine risk reduction

7. Iraq 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 trainings. Iraq reported a total 40,029 beneficiaries from MRE for the reporting period.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Mauritania

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Initially, in 2001, Mauritania reported 34 areas totalling 87,725,000 square metres. 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 metres. Since the entry into force of the Convention for Mauritania in 2001, it has addressed all 56 areas having cleared 67,111,766 square metres and otherwise addressed 22,905,260 square metres.
2. In 2015, Mauritania submitted an extension request until 1 January 2021, indicating that the sole circumstance which impeded its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control was that it suspected that fortifications and minefields along the border with Western Sahara may in some instances be located on Mauritanian territory. At the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017, Mauritania carried out surveys of the suspected areas and Mauritania reported that it can now confirm that the areas are located within Mauritanian territory.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. Mauritania reported that further to administrative checks and the conduct of technical surveys, the area of Sebkhath Fogra in the Ain Bintilli district was identified to contain anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The area in question is 1,000,000 square metres. The Committee concluded that Mauritania had provided a high degree of clarity on the location of SHAs.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

4. Mauritania has estimated that the area could be released in 2017 provided funding is available. Mauritania reported that the Mauritanian government has committed 385,000 US dollars for 2016-2017 to cover the cost of the National Mine Action Authority. The Committee concluded that updates on efforts by Mauritania to raise the necessary funds to complete the implementation of Article 5 would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

5. 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 IMAS but adapted to the context in Mauritania.

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

6. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested Mauritania to provide updates with respect to commitments made in its extension request, including information on dialogues held with relevant stakeholders and progress in the acquisition of information on the exact location of its northern border and in the development of plans to

address identified areas. The Committee concluded that Mauritania had acted in accordance with the 14MSP decisions.

VI. Mine risk reduction

7. Mauritania reported that the area where the presence of anti-personnel is known has been marked and there are warnings displayed in Arabic and French. Mauritania reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs. These include MRE programmes provided to schools and community liaison teams, including women and men, local NGOs regularly visiting towns and villages to provide MRE.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Mozambique

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. The Committee recalled that on 17 September 2015 Mozambique declared that it had completed the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control. The Committee further recalled that in declaring completion, Mozambique indicated that in the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Mozambique would keep with the relevant decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties on a *“Proposed rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed”*.
2. Mozambique reported in its 2017 Article 7 Report that in April 2016 a suspected minefield was reported on the Mozambique and Tanzania border in Cabo Delgado province and that the *Instituto Nacional de Desminagem* (IND) together with APOPO carried out a combined non-technical survey of the area and concluded the existence of a 63,000 square metre suspected mined areas. Mozambique further reported the existence of an additional 4 areas measuring 3,226 square metres in Inhambane. During the 2017 intersessional meetings, Mozambique reported during the plenary that further investigations identified two additional minefields in Nangade, measuring approximately 22,000 square metres. The Committee indicated that given discrepancies between the information reported in its Article 7 Report and in its report to the intersessional meetings, the Committee would welcome clarification of the entire challenge identified.
3. Mozambique indicated in its 2017 Article 7 Report that the IND requested Norwegian People’s Aid to carry out clearance activities on the identified area starting in January 2017. Mozambique reported to the 2017 intersessional meetings, that the Government managed to clear all the identified minefields on the Mozambique – Tanzania border. In the process it identified and destroyed over 100 antipersonnel mines, and over 100,000 square metres of land cleared and returned to the local population.
4. The Committee noted that the information provided by Mozambique on the discovery of a previously unknown mined area was welcome but recalled that in such cases a State Party should, in accordance with the decision of the 12MSP, “immediately inform all States Parties of such a discovery, report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other means such as the meetings of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Meetings of the States Parties, Review Conferences and intersessional meetings”.
5. The Committee concluded that Mozambique could provide increased clarity concerning progress made by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

6. The Committee concluded that Mozambique had provided some clarity on its remaining challenge by providing a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region. During the 2017 intersessional meetings, Mozambique indicated that a total of 4 minefields measuring 1,881 square metres currently submerged in water in Inhambane province remain to be addressed and that these remaining minefields will be continuously monitored and cleared once the water level recedes and access is gained for their clearance.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

7. During a meeting with the Committee, Mozambique indicated that it will carry out an assessment of the remaining area and report on its findings to the Committee by 15 October. The Committee noted the importance of clarity concerning the situation in order to ensure that the decision of the 12MSP for such cases can be implemented accordingly. In particular, the Committee recalled that, in accordance with the decision of the 12MSP, if Mozambique believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference (whichever falls earlier), it should submit a request for an extended deadline, which should be as short as possible and no more than ten years, in accordance with its obligations under Article 5 and the process for submission of requests for extensions agreed to at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. The Committee concluded that information on the standards and methodologies being applied to the clearance and survey efforts would be welcome.

V. Mine risk education

9. The Committee noted that Mozambique did not report on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that information on this matter would be welcome.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Oman

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Oman reported that there are no confirmed hazardous areas in Oman. Oman further reported that despite the fact that no accident resulting from anti-personnel mines has been reported over the last 20 years, there are some suspected hazardous areas (SHA) as a result of rebellious activities in the 1960s and 1970s. Oman indicated that these SHAs are difficult to access but that they are marked and fenced. Oman further reported that it has formed a Committee that will prepare a plan for clearance. Oman reported that the SHAs are located in the Dhofar province and that in 2016, the area of Sarfit was cleared with some support.
2. The Committee concluded that further information on the identification and precise location of SHAs would be welcome as well as on the outcome of survey and clearance activities. The Committee further concluded that additional information on efforts to locate and address these areas ahead of Oman's 1 February 2025 deadline, including a work plan with milestones, would also be welcome.

Conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Peru

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)

I. Progress in implementation

1. Peru reported that in 2016 it addressed a total of 48,848.75 square metres. This included 4,784 square metres cancelled, 25,747.51 reduced, and 18,317.24 square metres cleared. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was presented in a manner consistent with the IMAS. In the process Peru reported it had and destroyed 1,886 anti-personnel mines.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

2. The Committee concluded that Peru 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 four sectors of the country. This list included the number of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Peru reported that, as of the end of 2016, 134 areas suspected and known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 426,325 square metres remained to be addressed. The Committee noted that in its 2016 extension request Peru indicated that in 2017 it expected to have a remaining challenge of 128 areas measuring 411'694 square metres. The Committee would welcome further information from Peru on the reasons why the implementation challenge is greater than that anticipated in their request submitted in 2016.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

3. Peru provided a work plan leading towards completion. Indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected. In this regard Peru intends to address a total of 134 areas, including 22 areas to be treated during 2017, 16 areas in 2018, 20 areas in 2019, 16 areas in 2020, 18 areas in 2021, 16 areas in 2022, 15 areas in 2023 and 13 areas in 2024.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

4. Peru reported that humanitarian demining applies processes according to land release standards approved by the national authority on humanitarian demining. In this regard the Committee welcomes further information from Peru on the results of new land release policies and on their implementation.

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

5. The Committee recalled that the decision of the 15MSP had requested Peru to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that Peru reported progress relative to several commitments contained in section 15 of its extension request. In this regard the Committee recalls the decision of the 15MSP of Peru to report annually the outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Peru's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge and priorities for clearance. The Committee would welcome additional information on this matter.

6. The Committee recalled that in granting the request, the 15MSP had noted that the Convention would benefit from Peru reporting annually to the States Parties on the efforts undertaken to reach out to international entities to achieve Peru's desirable outcome to conclude implementation well in advance of its requested extension deadline and on those resources made available by the Government of Peru and other entities to support implementation. The Committee would welcome information on these efforts.

VI. Mine risk reduction

7. The Committee noted that Peru did not provide any reporting 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. The Committee concluded that information on this matter would be welcome.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Senegal

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, 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 had been released through non-technical and technical survey and clearance. Senegal had also reported that of the 171 inaccessible localities 54 were cancelled and of the 60 abandoned localities 33 localities were addressed. In addition, Senegal reported that further non-technical surveys were conducted in 298 localities resulting in 288 localities being cancelled.
3. Senegal reported that since 2015, it cleared 9 areas totalling 61,637 square metres, including 3,043 square metres in 2015 and 58,594 square metres in 2016. 19 anti-personnel mine were found. In addition, Senegal reported the clearance of 39,735 square metres up to 31 March 2017. Senegal further reported that non-technical surveys were conducted in 72 of the 79 localities that were planned to be visited. As a result, 67 localities were cancelled, 5 confirmed hazardous areas (14,670.99 linear metres) were identified and 7 remain inaccessible.
4. The Committee concluded that since the submission of its last extension request, Senegal has provided some clarity with regards to progress in implementation. The Committee concluded that greater comparability with annual milestones of progress provided in extension requests would be welcome.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. Senegal reported that 52 confirmed hazardous areas, including 41 totalling 529,027.276 square metres and 11 with an unknown size remain to be addressed. In addition, Senegal indicated that non-technical surveys need to be undertaken in 144 localities in 2019. The area remaining to be addressed has been estimated at 1,300,000 square metres.
6. 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

7. In 2017, Senegal submitted an updated work plan which indicates that 17 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) totalling 169,770.825 square metres will be addressed in 2017, 24 CHAs totalling 343,856.451 square meters and 11 CHAs of an unknown size will be addressed in 2018. The plan

also indicates that during 2018, the remaining 144 localities will be subject to non- technical surveys. The areas which will have been identified as CHAs further to the surveys will be addressed in 2019-2020.

8. The Committee noted that the plan does not include a detailed budget for the activities presented and relies in part on the mobilisation of external financial contributions. The Committee concluded that regular updated information on efforts by Senegal to mobilise resources and outcomes of these efforts would be welcome. Senegal reported that in 2015-2016, Senegal received external support from the USA and that Senegal's own annual contribution amounted to 800,000,000 FCFA.
9. The Committee noted 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 of the plan. The Committee concluded that information acquired by additional surveys will affect the implementation of the plan. The Committee concluded that it would welcome regular updated information on the security situation as well as on the results of any surveys.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

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

11. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested that Senegal provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that Senegal submitted information on outcomes of survey efforts and on past resource mobilization efforts and external financing. The Committee concluded that information on current efforts to mobilise sufficient resources to implement its plans would be welcome.
12. The Committee concluded that Senegal had acted in accordance with the 14MSP decision which requested Senegal to submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2017, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee further concluded that the work plan contained an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request. However, the Committee concluded that similar projections would be welcome for survey work.
13. The Committee noted that precise updates on the development of the peace process dialogue could not be provided because the CNMAS is not a member of the negotiation group. The Committee concluded that Senegal had nonetheless provided an update on the security situation by indicating that recent developments in The Gambia had positively affected the north of Casamance, in particular in the Bignona department, where a massive return of population was recorded.

VI. Mine risk reduction

14. In 2017, Senegal reported on the actions it took in 2015-2016 to effectively exclude the populations from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and two mine education programmes financed by the CNMAS and two by the US State Department. The Committee underlined the importance of Senegal continuing to provide updated information on actions taken to exclude populations from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. In addition, Senegal reported that in 2016, there was no new casualty resulting from anti-personnel mines.

Conclusions of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Serbia

Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)

I. Progress in implementation

1. Serbia reported that it conducted non-technical survey during 2016 and 2017 resulting in an increase of 700,000 square metres of suspected hazardous areas (SHA). This increased the total SHA to be addressed to 2,630,340 square metres. The Committee noted that no clearance activities were carried out in 2016 due to lack of donor funding.
2. 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.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Serbia had provided high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of all remaining areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to nine localities and an annexed table of each area. Serbia reported that, as of 1 April 2017, 13 SHAs totalling 2,630,340 square metres 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 areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

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.
6. In 2017, Serbia reported that it had adjusted its plan and provided an update on milestones to be covered during the extension period including addressing a total of 5 areas measuring 995,920 square metres in 2017; 5 areas measuring 1,181,820 square metres in 2018, and; 3 areas measuring 452,600 square metres in 2019. Serbia reported that the dynamics of implementation might be affected by a lack in the provision of funds. Serbia further reported that if additional funds are provided, the work plan could be implemented in due time. The Committee concluded that Serbia had a plan to achieve completion by its extended deadline that is dependent on donor funding.
7. Serbia reported that it has developed a technical survey project totalling 995,920 square metres and that this technical survey project will confirm or reject suspicion that the project area is contaminated with groups of mines and other UXO with CHAs being subject to clearance and those areas not confirmed to be mine contaminated to be cancelled.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. In its 2013 extension request Serbia provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the IMAS. In its 2017 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 place on the need for evidence to define areas as either CHA or SHA.

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

9. The Committee concluded that Serbia was acting upon the decisions of the 13MSP having submitted an updated work plan to the Committee in March 2016 and having kept the States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia's national financial contribution to implementation, efforts to mobilise external resources, and the results of these efforts.

VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Serbia has reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through marking and MRE programmes. 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.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by South Sudan

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. In 2016, South Sudan reported having cancelled 17,166,302 square metres, reduced 71,399 square metres and cleared 10,538,076 square metres for a total of 27,775,777 square metres addressed destroying in the process a total of 585 anti-personnel mines, 200 anti-tank mines, 20,190 items of UXOs and 201,589 small arms munition.
2. The Committee concluded that it was important for South Sudan to continue providing information on progress made disaggregated according to areas cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and released through clearance.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that South Sudan had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of remaining areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and information on the geographic location of most areas including by annexing maps. South Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2016, 236 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel totalling 80,904,786 square metres remained to be addressed. The Committee concluded that clarifications with respect to confirmed hazardous areas which are not detailed in the tables and the discrepancy between the reported 248 areas remaining to be addressed and 236 areas as recorded in Table 1 would be welcome.
4. The Committee concluded that while the amount of area remaining to be addressed at the end of 2015 totalled 98,403,022 square metres and the amount of area addressed in 2016 totalled 27,775,777 square metres clarity concerning the size of the remaining challenge reported by South Sudan would be welcome.
5. 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

6. South Sudan reported that the conflict has made access to some areas difficult for mine action teams to carry out survey and clearance in suspected hazardous areas. South Sudan reported that if the security situation improves, there is a need to carry out survey in the conflict affected areas to ascertain in the status of those areas. The Committee concluded that updates on survey efforts and the results of these efforts would be welcome.
7. South Sudan reports that, in spite of this, through non-technical and technical survey efforts, land has been either cancelled or prioritised for clearance.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. In 2016, the Committee noted that South Sudan reported that all land release endeavours are implemented in line with National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) which are based on the most up-to-date International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). 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

9. The Committee concluded that South Sudan had reported in detail on the actions it had taken to effectively educate civilians with age appropriate and gender sensitive mine risk education (MRE) programmes specifically targeting internally displaced persons, returnees and primary school children. MRE is included in national primary school curriculum. In 2016, South Sudan reported that its MRE programmes reached a total of 385,283 beneficiaries.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Sudan

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Sudan reported that, in 2016, it addressed 13 areas measuring 4,885,725 square metres known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 1,044,104 square metres addressed through clearance, 2,337,945 square metres reduced and 1,503,676 square metres cancelled, destroying in the process 105 anti-personnel mines, 24 antitank mines and 8,851 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.

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, including the estimated size of each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2016, there was a total remaining challenge of 19,137,285 square metres. This included, 55 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,604,237 square metres and 44 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 16,533,04 square metres remained to be addressed.
4. The Committee noted that due to the need to account for new hazards and the ongoing resurvey of existing hazardous areas, the number of areas to be addressed had increased from the number Sudan reported previously, from 102 to 112. The Committee noted that Sudan's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in the country. 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 identified as a result of ongoing re-survey efforts.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. The Committee recalled that 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, submitted an updated work plan with a revised number of areas per state that it intends to address during the period 2016 to 2019. Including 43 areas measuring 7,324,853 square metres in 2016; 35 areas measuring 6,385,382 square metres in 2017; 24 areas measuring 5,085,217 square metres in 2018; and 10 areas measuring 2,118,840 square metres in 2019 (to 1 April 2019).

6. Sudan reported that the plan under the extension request was based on the assumptions that there will be an improvement in the security situation in all the regions contaminated by mines. ERW and required funds will also need to be secured to implement programme activities. Sudan reported that the other factors that may hamper the implementation includes, conflict, frequent movement of population, finding additional hazards, high metallic soils, and the rainy season.
7. Sudan reported that during 2016 the eastern states were accessible for the demining operations, while access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was limited for clearance and survey operations due to insecurity.
8. Sudan provided an update on milestones expected towards completion with 63 areas to be addressed in 2017; 27 areas to be addressed in 2018, and; 10 areas to be addressed in 2019. The Committee noted a small discrepancy in the number of areas reported by Sudan as remaining to be addressed.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

9. 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 reported that it was 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

10. 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.
11. The Committee concluded that Sudan had reported in detail on each of these matters. The Committee noted that, with respect to information provided on survey efforts and on the security situation, Sudan reported that security wise eastern states were accessible for the demining operations, while access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was limited for clearance and survey operations due to insecurity situations. The Committee also noted that, with respect to information on financing, Sudan reported that in 2016 the Sudan Mine Action Programme received 5,985,582 USD from different donors and that in addition the Government of Sudan supported the programme by providing salaries for staff of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), the operational costs of the NMAC by allocating 2 million USD. Sudan further reported that there was a 4.4 million USD gap in funding for 2016.
12. Sudan further reported that the database clean-up effort was ongoing and could not be finalised in 2016. The Committee concluded that given the importance of ensuring that the national program counts on clear and up-to-date information on the status of operations, updated information on progress in this area would be welcome.
13. Sudan further reported on its efforts to facilitate the operations of international demining organisations and to expand indigenous demining capacity, and the result of these efforts.

VI. Mine risk reduction

14. Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through the marking of hazardous areas.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Tajikistan

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Tajikistan reported that, in 2016, it addressed a total 12 areas measuring 1,451,067 of confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) and suspected hazardous areas (SHA) with 496,796 square metres having been cleared, 294,835 square metres having been reduced and 659,436 square metres having been cancelled destroying in the process 1,248 anti-personnel mines and 206 UXOs.
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 CHAs and SHAs in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Tajikistan reported that, as of the end of 2016, 147 CHAs measuring 7,764,256 square metres and 77 SHAs measuring 1,970,000 square metres remain to be addressed.
4. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Tajikistan'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. Tajikistan provided a detailed plan in its 2009 extension request leading towards completion clearly projecting geographical and quantified results. In 2014, Tajikistan reported that the plan presented in its request is not reflective of the current situation due to alteration in the planned activities, management issues, land release capacity and remaining contamination.
6. The Committee noted that Tajikistan provided an updated projection of outputs for clearance and survey in each of the three administrative regions contaminated with anti-personnel mines from 2017 to 2019 which will be addressed as follows: in 2017, 22 areas and 1,520,100 square metres, in 2018, 42 areas and 1,655,235 square metres, in 2019, 29 areas and 1,712,085 square metres. The Committee noted that of the 224 mined areas measuring 9,734,256 square metres Tajikistan intends to address 93 mined areas and 4,887,420 square metres, approximately half of the remaining challenge. The Committee also noted that Tajikistan indicated that it will need to increase its humanitarian demining capacity in order to meet its 1 April 2020 deadline. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updates from Tajikistan on the implementation of the plan and efforts to increase capacity.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. 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 IMAS. In 2014, Tajikistan reported that based on experiences gained during the last years, international best practices, new land release methodologies and new operational conditions, three new chapters were developed for the NMAS and that the 22 existing chapters of the NMAS were updated and revised by the NMAS Review Board in 2014 and finalised.

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

8. The Committee concluded that Tajikistan had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request providing clarity on the situation on the Tajik-Uzbek border.
9. The Committee further recalled that 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.
10. Tajikistan reported that in 2016 Tajikistan enhanced its information management capacity by providing refresher training and modernizing its information management system to IMSMA 6.0. In addition to this, Tajikistan indicated that it has developed and approved a national strategic plan 2017-2020.

VI. Mine risk reduction

11. Tajikistan reported the efforts it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs. Tajikistan indicated that it places warning signs in the language of the local population and has mainstreamed MRE in the curriculum of educational institutions in vulnerable regions of the country to reduce possible risk. Tajikistan also indicated that in high risk areas it has carried out a series of activities on mine awareness and community outreach.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Thailand

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Thailand reported that in 2016 it addressed 43 suspect hazardous areas located in 7 Provinces, releasing 28,194,432 square metres of land including 27,728,657 square metres cancelled, 71,537 square metres reduced and 394,238 square metres cleared. Thailand reported that through these efforts a total of 1,231 anti-personnel landmines and 246 other explosive items were destroyed. As a result of this work Thailand declared Chiang Rai Province mine free.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with information previously provided by Thailand. The Committee further concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if it used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee noted the importance of Thailand continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance, reduction or cancellation.

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, including the estimated size of each area and information on the geographic location of each area. Thailand reported that during 2016 an additional 63,080 square metres of land was identified as mined area. Thailand reported a remaining challenge as of 31 December 2016 of 305 suspect hazardous areas located in 30 districts, of 13 provinces totalling an area of 422,605,172 square metres. Thailand further classified 86 areas, 63,796,040 square metres of its remaining challenge into, 'area that can be operated/surveyed'. While 244 areas, representing 358,809,132 square metres have been classified as, 'inaccessible due to pending demarcation processes.
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 in each region required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee also concluded that annual updates on the results of survey efforts would be welcome.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. The Committee noted that Thailand submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that Thailand had provided a two year work plan, (2017-2018) indicating what geographical and quantified results were expected when, how, and by whom. Thailand reported that it planned to address all accessible suspect hazardous areas by the end of 2018, targeting 34,744,589 square metres in 2017 and 29,051,451 square metres in 2018.

6. Thailand reported 358,809,132 square metres as areas to be demarcated. These areas are located along the Thai border, many of which are pending survey, demarcation process, or concerned with border related security issues. Thailand reported that while it is committed to expediting boundary demarcation with its neighbouring countries, such progress rests upon political factors of neighbouring countries which always have some uncertainties. In spite of this, Thailand reported that it will operate along border areas in areas to be demarcated which cover 12 provinces.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. Thailand reported that in 2016 it had completed the Evidence-Based Survey (EBS) pilot project with the support of NPA. Thailand further reported that, if the pilot project results are accurate and applied nationwide, only 13.5% land are actually contaminated meaning that 86.5% could be cancelled. The Committee noted that further updates from Thailand on the application of EBS to the remaining SHA in a manner consistent with the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, would be welcome

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

8. The Committee concluded that Thailand has been acting on its commitments given at the 9MSP to keep the States Parties apprised of progress.
9. The Committee 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 Thailand had provided updated information on these efforts and welcomed further updated information on consultations on areas pending demarcation, and engagement with mine action centres and other relevant bodies from neighbouring countries on demarcation leading to mine action. The Committee further concluded that it would welcome increased information on efforts to strengthen the national mine action programme by including a civilian mine action component and its work with non-governmental organisations.

VI. Mine risk reduction

10. Thailand reported in detail on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Turkey

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Turkey reported that, in 2016, 122,764 square metres were cleared on the border with Iran. Turkey further reported that while demining operations continued in the eastern borders, no mined area has been formally released to date and that information on area reduced and cancelled will be reported in the following years. Turkey reported that a total of 837 anti-personnel mines were destroyed during operations on the Syrian border and an additional 9,008 mines destroyed through the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project in Igdir Province in 2016. The Committee welcomes that Turkey indicated that it would provide information on areas reduced or cancelled in the 2017 report.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous information provided by Turkey. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Turkey had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a table summarising the total, per border area, of the number of confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) and suspected hazardous areas (SHA), and, where known, the estimated size of area and the number of emplaced anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, where known. The Committee noted that Turkey reported that a comprehensive desk assessment of minefield records of the eastern and Syrian border was conducted in 2016. As a result Turkey reported that, as of the end of 2016, 3,080 CHAs totalling 172,565,239 square metres and 701 SHAs, with an unknown amount of area, remained to be addressed.
4. The Committee concluded that updated information from Turkey on the remaining challenge would be welcome, including a list of all remaining CHAs and SHAs 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.
5. The Committee concluded that Turkey 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 concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Turkey’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. Turkey reported that since the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) in 2015, mine clearance operations and mine action activities have intensified in Turkey. Turkey reported on a number of national capacity development measures being implemented including improvements in information management.
7. Turkey reported that the first ever National Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2017-2019 has been drafted which is expected to be approved and published in the Official Gazette in 2017 which covers national capacity development, the clearance of mined areas and areas containing UXOs within the borders of the Republic of Turkey, provisions for MRE, assistance to mine victim, and the Syrian Border Physical Security System. The Committee concluded that information on the milestones for progress in mine clearance leading towards Turkey's 1 March 2022 deadline for implementation of Article 5 would be welcome.
8. Turkey reported that non-technical survey operations are planned for 2017. The Committee concluded that additional information on the plan for non-technical survey and the outcomes of these activities would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

9. Turkey reported that National Mine Action Standards including land release policy have been drafted and are expected to be endorsed in 2017. The Committee concluded that information on the standards and methodologies to be employed would be welcome.

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

10. 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 by March 2015. In submitting this plan, Turkey indicated that this work plan will be finalised 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 welcome. The Committee further concluded that Turkey was complying with the decision of the 13MSP by keeping the states parties informed of progress in the clearance of mined areas in areas other than borders.
11. Turkey reported that in January 2015 Law No: 6586 on "Establishment on a National Mine Action Centre and Amendment of Some other Laws" entered into force on 3 February 2015. Turkey further reported that the law entitles the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC), established under the Ministry of National Defence, to define policies towards mine and/or UXO clearance activities within the territory of the Republic of Turkey, to plan and steer these activities, to monitor the execution of such activities in accordance with the established rules, to carry out the necessary coordination and cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions.
12. The Committee concluded that Turkey acted in accordance with the 13MSP decision requesting Turkey to submit an update on developments in the establishment of the NMAA and the NMAC; this includes enactment of National legislation, Law No: 671 of 15th August 2016 and subsequent enactment of the Law No: 6757 of 9 November 2016, that places the TURMAC under the Directorate of General Plans and Principles of the Ministry of National Defence.

VI. Mine risk reduction

13. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs. Turkey further reported that there were 57 new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2016 including 8 civilian wounded (4 children and 4 adults) and a total of 49 military personnel (35 wounded and 14 killed). The Committee concluded that the information on casualties provided by Turkey was not disaggregated by gender and age and encourages Turkey to disaggregate statistics in this manner.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by the United Kingdom

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. The United Kingdom reported that it had concluded the fourth phase of the demining operation/land release operations. The United Kingdom further reported that the fourth phase of demining operations ran from January 2015 to March 2016 and cleared a total of 25 SHAs: 24, 26, 27, 35, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60, 86, 22, 33, 49, 50A, 50B, 51, 52, 53, 56, 59, 63A, 63B, 66, 83 and 110 as well as a non-minefield area. The United Kingdom reported that the total number of mined areas addressed across the four phases totals 35.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by the United Kingdom permitted comparability with the information previously provided. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if the United Kingdom used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updated information from the United Kingdom on the remaining challenge including an updated list of all remaining confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) 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. The Committee further concluded that the United Kingdom could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

4. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom has indicated that during Phase 5 the United Kingdom will address at least 46 minefields and conduct technical survey in a further 27 minefields in the first two years, demonstrating progress towards meeting the UK’s obligations under the Convention.
5. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom has indicated that two contractors- Dynasafe Bactec and Fenix Insight- have been engaged for the roles of Land Release Contractor and Demining Project Office respectively. The Committee concluded that updated information on United Kingdom’s plan to complete implementation of Article 5 by its deadline of 1 March 2019 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. The United Kingdom reported that it applies the IMAS in its demining operations, as well as local environmental and planning regulations. The United Kingdom reported that it is applying a

combination of non-technical survey, technical survey, manual and mechanical clearance and battle area clearance, as well as applicable environmental standards.

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 the United Kingdom to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that the Convention as a whole would benefit if the United Kingdom, in the context of reporting on the progress on destruction of anti-personnel mines, provided an accounting of annual milestones of progress to be achieved during the remaining period of its extension request.

VI. Mine risk reduction

8. The United Kingdom reported that there are effective fences and minefield marker warnings in place around all CHAs and SHAs, that school children are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings as appropriate.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Ukraine

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

1. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties Ukraine indicated that there are areas that are known or presumed to be mined by anti-personnel mines in the east of the country but that these areas are currently not under its effective control. Ukraine reported that the areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines are in the Donetsk region, Volnovasky district. Ukraine further reported that accurate information is missing on the type of anti-personnel mines, the quantity and the date of emplacement. Ukraine indicated that around 7,000 square kilometres were mined or suspected to be contaminated with anti-personnel mines and IEDs.
2. At the 2017 intersessional meetings, Ukraine indicated that, despite ongoing military operations in the east of Ukraine, clearance is carried out by the engineers demining units of the armed forces of Ukraine. Ukraine further reported that in 2016 a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and Halo Trust, DDG and the FSD for the conduct of non-technical surveys. Ukraine reported that efforts are currently directed towards clearing infrastructure for the population, i.e., power lines, gas and water pipes, as well as roads and railway tracks in the Donetsk and Lugansk region. As of November 2016, two demining teams had cleared about 200 square kilometres and neutralised more than 210,000 mines and unexploded ordnance.
3. The Committee recalled the decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties in which the States Parties expressed serious concern that Ukraine was at that stage in a situation of non-compliance with Article 5 and called on Ukraine to submit as soon as possible a request for extension in accordance with the process established by the States Parties at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee regrets that, despite its engagement with Ukraine, as of 15 September 2017, Ukraine has not submitted a request for extension in accordance with the decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties and the process for requesting an extension established by the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.
4. The Committee reiterates its offer to support Ukraine in preparing an extension request in any way it wishes and consistent with the Committee's mandate and the decision of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by the Yemen

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Yemen reported that from April 2016 to March 2017 it addressed a total of 130 suspected hazardous areas. Releasing a total of 4'703'279 square metres by survey and clearance. This resulted in the destruction of 14,397 anti-personnel mines and 11,457 anti-tank mines. Yemen reported that since 1999 a total of 1,624 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) totalling 1,217,345,061 square metres have been addressed.
2. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Yemen used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee also concluded that Yemen could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Yemen had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenges by providing a summary table of all remaining SHAs in 18 provinces, including the estimated size of the area concerned. Yemen reported that as of the end of 2016 569 SHAs totalling 323,480,306 square metres remained to be addressed.
4. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Yemen could significantly increase clarity on Yemen's remaining challenge by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. Yemen reported that the cooperation between the Yemen Mine Action Programme and UNDP is strengthened and that UNDP is currently working with YEMAC to build the capacity of YEMAC in the field of management and in technical issues. Yemen also reported that the YEMAC will move under the direct management of the UNDP. Yemen further reported that the Yemen Mine Action Programme through the support of UNDP is going to work with NGOs in some mine action activities as the new challenges which Yemen faces required the cooperation between YEMAC/UNDP and other NGOs.
6. Yemen reported that the Government of Yemen with support of UNDP established an emergency plan for clearing mines and ERW with this plan having started in April 2015. Yemen reported that it has changed the structure of the Yemen Mine Action Programme according to the emergency plan approved by the government of UNDP.
7. Yemen reported that it plans to re-survey 18 governorates from 2017-2020 intending to release a total of 20 areas 73 areas totalling 43,646,466 square metres in 2017, 112 areas totalling 51,581,700 square metres in 2018, 157 areas totalling 65,358,990 square metres in 2019 and 227 areas measuring 162,893,150 square metres in 2020. Yemen reported that additional contamination could be found.

8. The Committee concluded that more information would be welcome to understand how this ambitious plan will be implemented.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

9. Yemen reported in 2017 that it employs technical survey, manual mine clearance and mine detection dogs in its efforts to address its contamination challenge. Yemen also indicated that these efforts are carried out in accordance with international and Yemeni standards. Yemen further reported that the technical survey is the first essential step to identify and verify the location of minefields, to draw contamination maps and conduct clearance in small minefields, in addition to the survey teams making large area reduction and area cancellation.
10. The Committee concluded that Yemen 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 Yemen 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 in granting the extension request the Third Review Conference had requested Yemen to provide information on efforts to diversify funding covering the costs of implementing Yemen's national plans for survey and mine clearance, efforts to update, develop and apply national mine action standards that are in line with the IMAS, and changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation. The Committee concluded that continued updates on Yemen's progress regarding these matters would be welcome.
12. The Committee concluded that Yemen was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request of keeping the States Parties apprised of progress made and by having submitted an updated work plan in 2015.

VI. Mine risk reduction

13. Yemen reported that MRE activities during the period of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 were ongoing in 9 governorates (Ibb, Mareb, Hajjah, Amran, Abyan, Al Hodaydah, Lahij, Aden and Sana'a) in cooperation with UNICEF. Yemen reported that field visits were conducted to 674 villages and locations targeting a total of 220,332 people of which 104,811 were female and 115,521 were male.

**Conclusions of the
Committee on Article 5 Implementation**

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5 by Zimbabwe

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Zambia)**

I. Progress in implementation

1. Zimbabwe reported that in 2016 it addressed 11,148,348 square metres known to contain anti-personnel mines, including the cancellation of 6,297,977 square metres, reduction of 3,179,056 square metres and clearance of 1,671,315 square metres. During the reporting period Zimbabwe destroyed 23,379 anti-personnel mines, 4 anti-tank mines and 2 items of UXO.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation. The Committee noted the importance of Zimbabwe continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe 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. Zimbabwe reported that, as of the end of 2016, there remained five distinct minefields (divided into 212 sectors/tasks) totalling 66,230,103 square metres.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

4. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that the request contained an updated work plan with this plan indicating geographical and quantified results expected when, how, by whom and at what cost including addressing a total of 7,035,300 square metres in 2017; 7,367,700 square metres in 2018; 8,150,098 square metres in 2019; 9,008,098 square metres in 2020; 8,720,000 square metres in 2021; and 8,666,000 square metres in 2022; 8,790,000 square metres in 2023; 8,600,050 square metres in 2024, and; 3,072,418 square metres in 2025.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

5. The Committee noted that over the course of its last request, Zimbabwe had implemented effective land release methodologies leading to the cancellation and reduction of significant areas. The Committee further noted that Zimbabwe had adopted National Mine Action Standards which guide the work of operations in country. The Committee further noted that Zimbabwe was also piloting other methodologies, in specific mechanical clearance and the use of mine detection dogs. The Committee concluded that additional information on the methodologies employed and

how these methodologies impact the efficiency of Zimbabwe's mine action programme would be welcome.

6. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had increased its cooperation with international organisations. The Committee concluded that the increased cooperation with international organisations could positively affect the rate of addressing the remaining mined areas in Zimbabwe and would welcome information on the positive effects of this.

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

7. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2014 extension request granted at the Third Review Conference. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe was complying with the commitments contained in its last request.
8. The Committee recalled that in the decision of the Third Review Conference on Zimbabwe's request, States Parties requested Zimbabwe to provide an update on the relocation of the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre out of military cantonments. The Committee concluded that additional information on the progress of this recommendation would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

9. Zimbabwe reported that all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have been marked and warning signs in both respective area languages and English were displayed with replacement of warning signs and their maintenance done on regular basis. Zimbabwe reported that the danger of people entering into minefields doing risk taking activities is reduced from massive mine risk-reduction education done by Zimbabwe Army Engineers and all demining organisations in their areas of responsibility. Efforts are being made to tailor messages according to community circumstances (e.g., according to the main economic, cultural and recreational activities carried in any particular locality).