

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TAJIKISTAN

I. Progress in implementation

1. Tajikistan reported that in 2018 it addressed a total of 7 mined areas measuring 883,818 square meters with 255,971 square metres cancelled, 34,634 square metres reduced and 593,213 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 4,998 anti-personnel mines and 134 items of unexploded ordnance. Tajikistan reported an additional 16 suspected minefields measuring 366,000 square metres were cancelled and reduced.
2. Tajikistan reported that in 2018, non-technical and technical survey teams confirmed 8 mined areas, including 6 minefields measuring a total of 255,000 square meters, and a further two confirmed minefields measuring 865,000 square metres. Non-technical survey conducted by Norwegian People's Aid confirmed 3 minefields measuring 146,000 square meters.
3. Tajikistan reported that by the end of 2018, it had released 282 mined areas measuring 22,552,757 square meters, including 272 mined areas measuring 19,506,071 square meters. Tajikistan also reported it addressed battlefield areas measuring 3,046,686 square meters. In the process Tajikistan has destroyed a total of 68,904 anti-personnel mines and 2,627 other explosive ordnance, (anti-vehicle mines and UXO).
4. The Committee observed that the information provided by Tajikistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability. The Committee further noted the importance of Tajikistan disaggregating progress in a manner consistent with IMAS. The Committee further noted the importance of Tajikistan continuing to disaggregate contamination by the specific munition. The Committee also welcomed Tajikistan employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee concluded that Tajikistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Tajikistan reported that, as of the end of 2018, 154 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 7,907,210 square metres and 95 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 4,191,000 square metres remain to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. The Committee that Tajikistan on 31 March 2019 Tajikistan submitted a request for extension of its Article 5 implementation challenge for consideration by the Fourth Review Conference¹. The Committee further noted that the request included a detailed work plan for the period of the extension request. Tajikistan reported that in 2019 it aimed to address 27 mined areas in three regions; Khatlon, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast and the Central Region measuring

¹ Tajikistan's request was submitted 31 March 2019 for consideration at the Fourth Review Conference. The Committee is currently undertaking an analysis of Tajikistan's request in line with the decisions of the 7MSP, and 12MSP.

1,543,579 square metres. Tajikistan further reported that in 2020 it aims to address 30 mined areas in three regions measuring 1,541,541 square metres.

7. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing the remaining challenge in Tajikistan will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Tajikistan will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.
8. The Committee recalled that in its conclusions presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties, (17MSP) that Tajikistan reported that in November 2017, the Border Guard Troops of the State National Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan were given permission to conduct demining operations in the areas in Khatlon Region. The Committee noted that it would welcome further updates on matters relating to security and access to border areas and how these matters affect the timelines for operations.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

9. Tajikistan reported that in 2018, it developed two technical guides, for the testing and evaluation of metal detectors scheduled for approval early 2019, and a methodological Guide on using topographic maps. The Committee would welcome further updates from Tajikistan on the impacts of new methodologies on operational efficiency in Tajikistan.

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

10. The Committee observed that Tajikistan had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled the Second Review Conference decision that Tajikistan could benefit from increasing its frequency of contact with donors and clearly communicating the socio-economic development benefits that would flow from completing Article 5 implementation and would welcome more information on these efforts. The Committee noted that Tajikistan's extension request included a resource mobilisation strategy for the period of its new extension deadline.

VI. Mine risk reduction

11. The Committee noted that Tajikistan continued to report on efforts taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas through marking and mainstreaming MRE in the school curriculums in vulnerable regions of the country. Tajikistan indicated that in high risk areas it has carried out a series of activities on mine awareness and community outreach. The Committee noted the actions taken by Tajikistan in MRE and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.