

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION BY ETHIOPIA

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Austria, Canada, Norway, Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings 30 June -2 July 2020

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #22, #8)

1. Ethiopia reported that in the period 1 May 2019 – 30 April 2020 a total of 109 mined areas measuring 330,281,076 square metres were released, including 318,216,508 square metres cancelled, 10,306,621 square metres reduced and 1,757,947 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 128 anti-personnel mines, and 5,812 items of explosive ordnance. The Committee observed that progress reported is above the estimated amount of area projected by Ethiopia to be addressed in its extension request submitted in 2019.
2. The Committee observed that information provided by Ethiopia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2019 extension request. The Committee encourages Ethiopia to continue to improve the quality of information by reporting in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and by using the Guide to reporting (Action #22, #8).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

3. The Committee observed that Ethiopia had reported a high level of clarity on its remaining challenge (Action #18). Ethiopia reported a total of 726,068,475 square metres remaining to be addressed, including 29 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 3,519,538 square metres and 123 suspect hazardous areas (SHAs) measuring 722,548,937 square metres (Action #22).
4. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Ethiopia will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Ethiopia will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee welcomes updated information on the result of these efforts.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #19, #20, #26)

5. The Committee observed that Ethiopia had a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place (Action #2, #19). The Committee recalled that in Ethiopia's 2019 request for extension contains a workplan which estimates a total of 175,807,352 square metres to be addressed annually in the period 2020-2024 and 3,900,000 square metres to be addressed in 2025. The Committee encourages Ethiopia to provide regular updates on the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed annually against updated milestones, including how priorities have been established to achieve completion as soon as possible (Action #20).
6. The Committee recalled that Ethiopia in its extension request indicated its goal to, "completely clear mine dangers" from mined areas, "through direct cooperation with the authorized state administration bodies (Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and other bilateral and donors /Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations)". In this regard the Committee would welcome further information on Ethiopia's efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies (Action #1).

7. The Committee recalled that Ethiopia in its 2019 extension request reported a total budget of US \$40,958,157.39 to realise the stated scope and manual demining operations, with 20% of the total to be allocated from state budget. In this regard, the Committee encourages Ethiopia to provide updates on its allocation of state resources and international in support of its work plan as given in its 2019 extension request (Action #1).
8. The Committee recalled that Ethiopia in its 2019 extension request included a vision to be, “Free of the threats of land mines and ERW, where all land mines and ERW victims enjoy equal access to age and gender sensitive assistance and services are fully integrated in to society, and where the mine action program contributes to the adoption of safe environment conducive to development”. In this regard, the Committee encourages Ethiopia to provide further information on the effort Ethiopia has taken and ways in which the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation (Action #3).
9. The Committee observed that Ethiopia established a mine action office under the responsibility of the Ministry of National Defence, with demining to be conducted by the Defence Engineering Main Department companies. The Committee would welcome further information on Ethiopia’s efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas that may be discovered following Ethiopia declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations (Action #26).

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

10. The Committee recalled that Ethiopia in its 2019 extension request indicated that, “the land release methodology used is based on the application of IMAS”. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further information from Ethiopia concerning the status of its National Mine Action Standards and if National Mine Action Standards are up to date with International Mine Action Standards to ensure the efficient and expedient implementation of its mine action programme (Action #5).
11. The Committee noted that Ethiopia’s 2019 extension request includes reference to upgrading of data processing skills. The Committee welcomes Ethiopia’s efforts in this regard and would welcome annual updates on the progress made by Ethiopia to establish and maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system (Action #9).
12. The Committee would welcome information from Ethiopia on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations and welcomes further information from Ethiopia in this regard (Action #27).

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

13. The Committee recalled that in granting Ethiopia’s request, the Fourth Review Conference requested Ethiopia to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Ethiopia regarding progress made relative to the commitments contained in Ethiopia’s annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period, disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared.
14. The Committee would welcome updated information from Ethiopia on the following decisions of the Fourth Review Conference:

- The impact of progress made relative to the commitments contained in Ethiopia's annual survey and clearance plan on annual targets as given in Ethiopia's work plan;
- Updated information on the full range of practical methods used to release land, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems. Together with relevant information on the training of national mine personnel, operators in new methodologies and quality control;
- Progress on the agreement of Ethiopia and Eritrea regarding plans to address antipersonnel contamination in border areas, including national institutions involved in the effort, process of the work, and annual milestones;
- Updates regarding resource mobilization efforts and external financing received, and resources made available by the government of Ethiopia to support implementation efforts; updates regarding efforts to collaborate with international and non-governmental organisations to support implementation of the plan within the extension request; and
- Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction (MRE/R) efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

15. The Committee recalled that in granting its 2019 request, the Fourth Review Conference requested Ethiopia submit to the States Parties by 30 April 2021 an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee further recalled that the Conference requested that, "these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area that would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget".

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)

16. The Committee noted that Ethiopia's 2019 extension request includes reference to mine risk education under Goal #4 in Ethiopia's work plan (Action #32), including the role of mine risk awareness to mitigate the threat posed by the presence of landmines and sensitising local populations about mine action activities, mine/UXO risks and safe behaviours. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further information on Ethiopia's efforts to integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts (Action #28). The Committee would also welcome further information on Ethiopia's efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) on the basis of a needs assessment to ensure these programmes are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account (Action #29). The Committee would welcome further information on Ethiopia's efforts to link mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data and its efforts to develop a national capacity to deliver these programmes (Action #30, #31).