

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION BY OMAN

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. Oman reported that in 2019, it cleared 11 mined areas in Al-Maghseel area measuring 130,100 square metres. Oman also reported that it had, 're-inspected' suspected mined areas in Dhafar and verified that these areas are free from anti-personnel land mines.
2. The Committee observed that progress reported by Oman had allowed for some comparability with that provided previously. The Committee noted that Oman could improve the quality of information by reporting in accordance with the 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 Oman reported some clarity concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Oman reported that it expected to complete its work plan by February 2025. The Committee noted that Oman could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by reporting in a manner consistent with IMAS, by providing information on its remaining challenges disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further information on its efforts to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish an evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination (Action #22).
4. The Committee noted the importance of Oman, in accordance with Commitments of the Oslo Action Plan, submitting to Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, further information on its efforts to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination (Action #18).

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

5. The Committee observed that Oman reported a work plan in place until February 2025 (Action #2, #19). The Committee would welcome information on projections on the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed annually against updated milestones, including how priorities have been established (Action #20).
6. The Committee would welcome information on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and humanitarian response plans. The Committee further encourages Oman to provide information on annual financial commitment of State resources towards implementation (Action #1).
7. The Committee would welcome further information on how Oman ensures consideration for gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in the development of its work plans as well as in ongoing work to achieve completion of its obligations under Article 5 (Action #3).

8. The Committee would also welcome further information from Oman on its efforts to make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown areas, including newly mined areas that may be discovered following Oman declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations (Action #26).
9. The Committee noted the importance of Oman, in accordance with Commitments of the Oslo Action Plan, submitting to the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties further information concerning its efforts to develop evidence-based and costed national plans, including projections 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 #19).

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

10. The Committee would welcome further information concerning the status of its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and if its NMAS are up to date with IMAS to ensure the efficient and expedient implementation of its mine action programme (Action #5).
11. The Committee would welcome further information from Oman on its efforts to establish and maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system (Action #9). The Committee would welcome information from Oman on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations (Action #27).

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

12. The Committee would welcome further information on its efforts to effectively exclude the population from mined areas (Action #32). The Committee would welcome further information on Oman'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 Oman'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 Oman'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).