

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium, Norway, Sri Lanka and Zambia (Chair))

Intersessional Meetings 22 – 24 June 2021

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY MOZAMBIQUE

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. In declaring completion, Mozambique indicated that 9 suspected mined areas remained on their records submerged under water on account of the major flooding of 2000, diverting the Limpopo River. Mozambique reported that there may be very little probability that mines would be detected in those submerged areas.
2. The Committee recalled that, since declaring completion, Mozambique reported that five of these areas became accessible in 2016 and that technical survey resulted in their subsequent cancellation. In 2018 Mozambique reported that the four remaining areas measuring 1,881 square metres remain inaccessible. Mozambique further reported that these mined areas are continuously monitored and will be addressed once the water level recedes and access is gained for their clearance. Mozambique further reported its commitment to continue including these areas in its transparency report and keep the States Parties informed on the status.
3. The Committee recalled that Mozambique reported that in 2019 the four areas measuring 1,881 square metres remain inaccessible. The Committee welcomed Mozambique's update on inaccessible areas. The Committee encourages Mozambique to continue to report in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and employing the Guide to Reporting (Action #8, #22).
4. **The Committee observed that Mozambique had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on progress in its effort to monitor and address suspected mined areas submerged under water.**
5. The Committee noted that Mozambique reported that its national work plan and strategies integrate gender and take into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities, including a Gender Policy and implementation strategy. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Mozambique and would welcome further updates on its efforts in this regard (Action #3).
6. Mozambique reported that it was declared a mine-free country in 2015 and mine risk education actions and specific programs were reduced with a focus on providing assistance to survivors. The Committee would welcome further information on Mozambique's effort to effectively exclude the population from these areas, including through Mine Risk Education and reduction programmes (Action #28, #29, #30, #31, #32).