

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 SENEGAL

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

1. Senegal reported that in 2020 it undertook non-technical survey (NTS) of 26 localities in two districts, including 7 localities in Katabal district and 19 localities in Tendouck district. Senegal reported that NTS was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that no other mine action activities were possible
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Senegal on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided in its 2020 extension request.
3. Action #8 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to provide quality information on progress and challenges in implementing the Convention, employing the guide to reporting. **The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported by employing the guide to reporting (Action #8).**
4. Action #22 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance). **The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported in a manner consistent with IMAS.**
5. Action #22 of the Oslo Action plan further requests States to provide survey and clearance data that disaggregates by type of contamination. **The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported on the number and types of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war addressed in a disaggregated manner (Action #22).**

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

6. The Committee observed that Senegal reported some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Senegal reported a remaining challenge of 46 dangerous zones, including 37 confirmed dangerous zones measuring an estimated 491,086.374 square metres and 9 suspected dangerous zones on unknown size. Senegal also reported that 118 localities remained to visit, including 101 localities in Bignona, 4 localities in Oussouye and 12 locations in Ziguinchor (Action #22).
7. The Committee recalled that Senegal in its 2020 extension request submitted to the Fourth Review Conference indicated a remaining challenge consisting of 1,593,487 square metres, including 37

¹ “Some clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, province, and district within the State.

confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) measuring 491,086 square metres, 9 suspect hazardous areas (SHAs) of unknown size, and 118 localities measuring an estimated 1,278,679 square metres, (101 in Bignona, 13 in Ziguinchor, and 4 in Oussouye). The Committee would welcome further clarity from Senegal on its remaining challenge.

8. Senegal reported on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size (Action #22).

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)

9. The Committee recalled that Senegal's extension request submitted in 2020 contained a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey for the period (2021-2026) (Action #2, Action #19). The Committee observed that Senegal has reported to be developing a new strategy in 2021 and would welcome further information from Senegal on its efforts to develop an evidence based, costed and time-bound national strategy (Action #19).

10. Action #20 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established. The Committee observed that Senegal reported that it would address 28 confirmed dangerous zones measuring 413,846.66 square metres in the period January to October 2021, including 12 confirmed dangerous zones measuring 113,975.21 square metres in Ziguinchor Region, and 16 confirmed dangerous zones measuring 299,871.45 square metres in Goudomp Region. The Committee observed that Senegal had reported adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including information on the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually. **The Committee observed that Senegal had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on how priorities for survey and clearance have been established and would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #20).**

11. Action #1 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities as appropriate, and by making financial and other commitments to implementation. **The Committee observed that Senegal had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and humanitarian response plans, and would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #1).**

12. The Committee recalled that Senegal's extension request submitted in 2020 indicated that the Government of Senegal will finance US \$3,333,333 of the total and would require US \$8,852,852 to be mobilised from donors (Action #1).

13. Action #6 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between the mine action community and relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, development and human rights communities, bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **The Committee observed that Senegal had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant, and would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #6).**

14. Action #3 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention

implementation and mine action programmes. The Committee recalled that Senegal's extension request submitted in 2020 indicated that gender is mainstreamed in all aspects of national life, including in the work of the Centre d'Action Antimines au Sénégal (CNAMS) and the mine action operator working in Senegal. Senegal also reported that community liaison teams are always mixed teams to ensure inclusive surveys. **The Committee observed that Senegal had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on how its national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account and welcomes further information in this regard (Action #3).**

10. The Committee recalled that Senegal in its 2020 extension request indicated that Military Engineering Units in Casamance will be responsible for residual contamination. The Ministries of the Interior, armed forces, customs, water and forests are responsible for the implementation of the law relating to anti-personnel mines on the national territory and at borders (Action #26).

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

11. The Committee observed that Senegal reported that its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) would be developed in 2021. The Committee welcomes the information from Senegal and would welcome further information on the timeline for approval of the updated national standards (Action #5).

12. Action #9 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. The design and implementation of information management systems will ensure that they are nationally owned, sustainable and take into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion. **The Committee observed that Senegal had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to establish and maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system and welcomes further information in this regard (Action #9).**

13. Action #27 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to take appropriate steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect. **The Committee observed that Senegal had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means, and welcomes further information in this regard (Action #27).**

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

14. In considering Senegal's 2020 extension request, the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties requested Senegal to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Senegal on:

Progress in implementation of Senegal's work plan, including annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and clearance through clearance); Progress on security related access matters and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;

15. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sudan on the following decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties:

- Update on efforts by Senegal to strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention (e.g. establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders) and the results of these efforts;
- The impact of annual progress on annual targets as given in Senegal's work plan, including updates to Senegal's national work plan, based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones, including on the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed annually, and on how priorities have been established
- Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
- Updates regarding detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities;
- Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including efforts in approaching potential donors and organisations in order to fund and assist in the implementation of clearance operations and the result of these efforts, including an expected timeline for recruitment, training and management of new or additional capacities; and
- Progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion

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

16. Senegal reported that all activities in the field ceased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Senegal reported that a project conducted with the International Committee of the Red Cross shared risk education messages on radio. (Action #32).

VII. Challenges in implementation

17. The Committee observed the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic on Senegal's implementation of Article 5 obligations.