

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS**

### **COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium (Chair), France, Iraq, and Sri Lanka)**

#### **Intersessional Meetings 20 – 22 June 2022**

#### **PART 1: Introduction**

##### **I. Activities of the Committee**

1. The Committee first met on 13 January 2022 to discuss its work plan towards the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties and has met regularly since this time.
2. On 21 December 2022 the Committee distributed communications to the following States Parties:
  - a. 8 States Parties – Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, and Yemen - with Article 5 deadlines in 2023 that were obliged to submit a request for extension by 31 March 2022 to recall to them the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties; and
  - b. 5 States Parties – Cambodia, Chad, Croatia, Serbia, and South Sudan - that were due to submit updated work plans in 2022 in accordance with previously granted extension requests and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by States Parties on their requests for extension.
  - c. 2 States Parties – Ethiopia, and Niger - that were due to submit updated work plans in 2021 in accordance with previously granted extension requests and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by States Parties on their requests for extension.
3. From February to May 2022 the Committee participated with representatives of the Coordinating Committee in 25 bilateral meetings with the following States Parties and international organisations: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Croatia, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing their Article 5 commitments and respective obligations under thematic areas of the Convention.
4. On 10 March 2022, the Committee together with the President and respective Committee's participated in a workshop encouraging adherence of States Parties to their obligation to submit Article 7 Reports by 30 April 2021 and encouraging States Parties to include detailed quantitative and qualitative information on implementation of their Convention commitments in line with the Guide to reporting and the commitments of the Oslo Action. The workshop also encouraged States Parties to increase reporting on the methodologies employed in land release and mine risk education and risk reduction activities and on how these methodologies consider gender and diversity.

5. On 20 May 2022, the Committee convened a meeting with previous Chairs and members of the Article 5 Committee to receive feedback on the Article 5 Extension Request process and any challenges associated with the process. The Committee also invited the ICBL to offer its feedback and to provide clarity concerning the proposal raised at the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee intends to continue the discussion with members of the Committee toward developing an updated reflections on the Article 5 Extension Request process.
6. During first half of the year, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation worked with the Presidency and the Committee on Cooperative Compliance to engage Eritrea which is currently in non-compliance with the Convention. On 6 April 2022, on behalf of the President and Convention's Committees, one of the Convention's Special Envoy, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, met with H.E. Amanuel Giorgio, Charge D 'Affairs of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations in New York to discuss the situation of non-compliance with Eritrea. During the meeting the Special Envoy and the Implementation Support Unit recalled the decision of the 19MSP and highlighted the support available to Eritrea to overcome the current impasse.
7. The Committee carried out efforts to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Article 5 extension request process as established by the States Parties. In this regard:
  - a. Following receipt of extension requests from Argentina (25 March 2022), Ecuador (31 March 2022), Serbia (18 March 2022), Sudan (1 April 2022), Thailand (31 March 2022), and Yemen (29 March 2022) the Committee reached out to expert organisations on 4 April 2022 to request input on these requests in accordance with the process established by the States Parties;
  - b. On 1 May 2022, the Committee sent a letter to all States Parties to inform them of the receipt of requests for extension submitted;
  - c. Following receipt of an extension request from Guinea-Bissau (22 April 2022) the Committee reached out to expert organisations on 3 May 2022 to request input on Guinea-Bissau's request in accordance with the process established by the States Parties.
8. The Committee received expert input from ICBL, GICHD, the HALO Trust and the Mine Action Review. Based on the Committee's analysis of the request and the input provided by expert organizations, the Committee drafted questions for clarification in line with the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties. The questions were sent out to States Parties that had submitted requests for extension on 15 June 2022.
9. In the lead up to the Intersessional Meetings, the Committee worked on the development of preliminary observations based on information submitted by the States Parties. The methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations is based on the Committee's mandate to review relevant information on Article 5 implementation and takes into consideration the Committee's mandate to review relevant information provided by the States Parties on implementation of commitments contained in the Oslo Action Plan, including considerations for gender and the diverse needs of affected communities.
10. The Committee further worked on supporting States Parties in their preparations for the Intersessional Meetings, including through providing guidance on presentations and templates to assist in presenting extension requests during the Intersessional Meetings.

## II. Methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations

11. The Committee is mandated to “review relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties, including in the context of Article 7 obligations and on efforts undertaken under Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance.”
12. The Committee is further mandated to “review relevant information provided by the States Parties on implementation of the commitments contained in the Oslo Action Plan” and to “consider matters related to gender and diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work.”
13. In preparing its observations, the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties in 2022 in the context of Article 7 reporting, information contained in requests for extended deadlines submitted in 2022, information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests such as in updated work plans and any additional information provided in writing by States Parties on Article 5 implementation.
14. In line with its purpose of intensifying efforts to ensure the full implementation of Article 5, and in an effort to build upon the approach established in 2015, taking into account the Oslo Action Plan, adopted at the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee gave particular attention to the following:
  - a. Increased clarity regarding progress made and remaining implementation challenges, with this clarity being encouraged through Article 7 reports, Article 5 extension requests and information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests;
  - b. Improvements in the measurability of Article 5 implementation over time, with improvements in the quality of information permitting greater understanding and comparability;
  - c. Efficient and expedient implementation of evidence based and costed national work plans to achieve completion with commitments to apply the most relevant land release standards and methodologies and including provision for sustainable “capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion”;
  - d. Delivery of context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk based on needs assessment and tailored to the threat encountered by the population;
  - e. Integration of gender and consideration of the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in work plans and strategies.
  - f. Provision of Quality information on progress and challenges in implementing Article 5 obligations of the Convention.
15. Given the subject matter present in States Parties Article 7 reports with relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan, including Best Practices for Implementing the Convention, Actions #1-10, Survey and Clearance of Mined Areas, Actions #18 to #32, and Mine Risk Education and Reduction, Actions #28-32, the Committee proceeded to prepare observations on the following matters:
  - Clarity on progress in implementation

- Clarity regarding remaining challenges
- Implementation of national plans for clearance and survey
- Application of land release standards, policies and methodologies
- National information management systems
- Actions related to commitments in extension requests and decisions on requests
- Mine risk reduction and risk reduction efforts
- Integration of gender and consideration of the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities
- Challenges in implementation

16. In reviewing information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation, the Committee noted different degrees of clarity regarding the location of all areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. As a result, the Committee has used terminology in its preliminary observations in the following manner:

- a. “High degree of clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area.
- b. “Clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions / provinces / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.
- c. “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 / district within the State.

### **III. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation**

17. At the close of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties, 33 States Parties had reported having an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention; Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

18. Of the 33 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, as of 10 June 2022 the following States Parties had provided information on progress in implementation:

- a. 22 States Parties – Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe - submitted Article 7 transparency reports containing updated information on implementation of Article 5.

- b. Of the 4 States Parties – Chad, Croatia, Serbia and South Sudan - that were due to submit updated work plans by 30 April 2021 pursuant to decisions taken on their requests for extended deadlines:
- Two State Parties – Chad and Croatia - submitted an updated work plan by 30 April 2022.
  - One State Party – South Sudan – submitted an updated work plan on 1 June 2022
  - One State Party – Serbia - that was due to submit an updated work plan by 30 April 2022 submitted a request to extend their Article 5 deadline, including an updated workplan for the period of the extension request.
19. One additional State Party - Cambodia - is due to submit an updated work plan by 15 August 2022.
20. Of the 2 States Parties – Ethiopia, and Niger - that were due to submit updated work plans in 2021 in accordance with previously granted extension requests and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by States Parties on their requests for extension. As of 10 June 2022 no updated work plan has been received.
21. Of the 8 States Parties – Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, and Yemen - with Article 5 deadlines in 2022/3 that were obliged to submit a request for extension for consideration by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, as of 10 June 2022, 7 States Parties have submitted their requests for extension: Argentina (25 March 2022), Ecuador (31 March 2022), Guinea-Bissau (22 April 2022), Serbia (18 March 2022), Sudan (1 April 2022), Thailand (31 March 2022), and Yemen (29 March 2022).
22. On 23 May, the Committee met with H.E. Nasir Ahmad Andisha to discuss the request to be submitted by Afghanistan in light of the current situation. Ambassador Andisha indicated that a request by Afghanistan will be forthcoming in the near future.
23. As highlighted above, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation has continuously availed in its efforts to engage with Eritrea, which is currently in non-compliance with the Convention. The Committee together with the current and former Presidents intensified their combined efforts to urge Eritrea to submit a request for extension of its Article 5 deadline. Eritrea was obliged to submit a request to extend its Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2020. As of 10 June 2022 Eritrea has not submitted a request for an extended deadline.
24. One State Party – Mozambique, which in its Declaration of Completion of its Article 5 obligations in 2015 reported remaining ‘suspended’ are suspected hazard areas that remain seasonally or permanently submerged under water in Inhambane Province. Mozambique highlighted that All tasks were subjected to technical survey and clearance up to the water line during the annual dry season with no direct evidence found to confirm the presence of mines in any of these areas and committee to marking and regularly monitored these areas to confirm if the area ever dries enough to allow further technical survey. The Committee recalled that Mozambique reported that in 2019 the four areas measuring 1,881 square metres remain inaccessible. Mozambique did not submit updated information in this regard in 2022.
25. Of the 33 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, as of 10 June 2022, **11 have not submitted** Article 7 reports: – Afghanistan, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Oman, the State of Palestine, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Ukraine.

## V. Observations of a general nature

26. The Committee welcomes the information submitted by States Parties as well as their engagement with the Committee during bilateral meetings that has allowed a cooperative dialogue to take place between the Committee and the States Parties.
27. The Committee observes that, as of 10 June 2022, there has been a slight increase in the number of reports (22) submitted by States Parties with Article 5 obligations compared to last year (18). The Committee further noted, in many cases, an increase in the quality of the reports submitted by States Parties. The Committee recalls that submission of an Article 7 reports on an annual basis is an obligation under the Convention.
28. The Committee observed that of the 11 States Parties that have not submitted reports in 2022, the following States Party had not submitted Article 7 Reports for two or more years - Eritrea (8 years) and Nigeria (10 years). The Committee looks forward to continued cooperation with Eritrea and Nigeria to ensure they submit, as soon as possible, an Article 7 Report containing updated information on implementation efforts.
29. The Committee noted the obligation for States Parties to submit Article 7 transparency reports by 30 April each calendar year. The Committee further emphasises the importance of the submission of outstanding reports in order to inform the States Parties of progress in implementation and to allow the Committee to develop its conclusions.
30. The Committee observed that 6 States Parties – Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nigeria, Türkiye, and Yemen - reported to be the affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and reported to ensure that they apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination as they do for all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregate by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations. (Action #21). The Committee noted the importance of States Parties continuing to report updated information on contamination in areas under their jurisdiction or control and will continue to work with affected States Parties in this regard (Action #21). The Committee encourages States Parties that face challenges with armed non-state actors to clarify the situation in terms of the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature by these actors.
31. In addition to anti-personnel mines, a number of States Parties face challenges associated with other explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance. In these States Parties, efforts to implement Article 5 are part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards. The Committee observes that, this being the case, it is important that States Parties continue to disaggregate information on their contamination in order to ensure clarity concerning the remaining challenge under Article 5. Nonetheless, the Committee recognizes that the impact of a particular type of contamination on the population needs to be considered in prioritization efforts. The Committee also reiterates the important of States Parties disaggregating their contamination by type of explosive ordnance to provide clarity.
32. The Committee observed that the information provided by 14 States Parties – Angola, Croatia, Ecuador, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, and Zimbabwe- on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous reporting, and disaggregated information on progress and remaining challenge in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Guide to Reporting (Action #22).

33. The Committee observes that, in a number of cases, progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States implementing Article 5 obligations used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS (i.e. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”; disaggregating data by activity that is non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance; reporting progress according to the result of each activity where land is cancelled, reduced or cleared). The Committee reiterates the importance of States providing information in this manner in order to have a clear understanding of the status of our implementation efforts. The Committee will continue its bilateral engagement with concerned States Parties to further encourage the proper use of this terminology.
34. The Committee observed that 16 States Parties – Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Iraq, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - employed the Guide to Reporting, which supported their efforts to provide clarity concerning their remaining challenge and progress made. The Committee continues to encourage States Parties with Article 5 obligations to employ the Guide to Reporting, which could be of considerable assistance in providing clarity concerning progress and status in implementing Article 5 obligations, and progress in implementation of commitments included in the Oslo Action Plan (Action #8).
35. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on the integration of Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans. (Action #1). The Committee encourages States Parties to strengthen efforts in this regard to support their resource mobilization efforts and to ensure that mine action continues to play its important role in support to mine affected communities.
36. The Committee observed that 20 States Parties - Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on their efforts to develop evidence based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans to fulfil and implement Convention obligations as soon as possible (Action #2).
37. The Committee observed that 20 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported having developed evidence-based and in many cases, costed national work plans, including projections of the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually (Action #19).
38. The Committee observed that 19 States Parties – Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported having updated national mine action standards in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee recognized the importance of States Parties ensuring that National Mine Action Standards are in line with best practice and implemented to ensure the efficient and effective implementation (Action #5).
39. The Committee observed that 17 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan,

Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe- reported having a national sustainable information management system in place (Action #9).

40. The Committee observed that 17 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on their 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 recalled the importance of States Parties, ““making use of the full range of emerging practical methods to more rapidly release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines”<sup>i</sup> and further recalled the importance of the importance of research and innovative technology to support the more efficient implementation of Article 5 (Action #27).
41. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties – Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported adjusted milestones to their national work plans based on new evidence. The Committee noted the importance of States Parties annually updating their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports, including the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established (Action #20).
35. The Committee observed that of the 7 States Parties who submitted extension requests for consideration by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, 6 States Parties – Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, and Yemen - submitted requests in a timely manner containing detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period and are developed through an inclusive process, in line with the decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties<sup>5</sup> and the recommendations endorsed by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties in the paper «Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process»<sup>6</sup>.
36. The Committee observed that of the 7 States Parties who submitted extension requests to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties - 4 States Parties –Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, and Yemen for extension submitted requests containing detailed, costed and multiyear plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities. The Committee continues its collaboration with requesting States Parties to seek clarification in aspects of its implementation efforts.
42. The Committee observed that 15 States Parties – Angola, Colombia, Ecuador, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on their efforts to build a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion that may be discovered following completion of their Article 5 obligations. The Committee further observed that 7 States Parties – Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe - reported having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas (Action #26). The Committee noted the importance of States Parties ensuring that provisions for a national capacity are integrated into national strategies and work plans for completion as early as possible in the life of the mine action programme to ensure that a *tried and tested* capacity is in place well ahead of completion.
43. Acknowledging the valuable contribution of the Convention’s Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the Committee notes that States Parties requiring assistance are invited to engage directly with the



ISU in order to benefit from its advice and support in matters concerning the implementation of Article 5.

## **VI. Mine Risk Education and Reduction**

36. The Committee noted that 9 States Parties - Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported Mine Risk Education programmes being integrated into ongoing survey and clearance activities and based on this integrated approach were prioritised based on the risk posed to communities. In this regard, the Committee noted the importance of States Parties reporting on the integration of mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts. The Committee observed that while the integration of MRE/R into education was established practice, it took diverse form and more detailed reporting could assist with the development of best practices. The Committee further noted the importance for States Parties to ensure the delivery of effective, relevant risk education and other risk reduction programmes that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and that take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account, require ongoing focus in order to prevent new mine accidents.
37. The Committee observed that 20 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on the actions they have taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines through the implementation of mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in their Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).
44. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to integrate mine risk education and reduction programmes into wider humanitarian, development, protection and education programmes (Action #28).
45. The Committee observed that 10 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Yemen - reported on their efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking these programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty data (Action #30).
46. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to build a national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes (Action #31).

## **VII. Gender and the diverse needs of affected communities**

47. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation. The Committee would welcome further information on the specific steps and efforts taken by the States Parties to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform their efforts to implement their mine action programmes (Action #3).

48. The Committee observed that 12 States Parties – Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee would welcome increased reporting by States Parties on this matter (Action #18).
49. The Committee noted the commitment of States Parties to provide context-specific mine risk education / reduction programmes that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. In this regard, the Committee welcomed information from 10 States Parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Yemen – reported carrying out MRE/R activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs (Action #29).
50. In this regard, the Committee recalls Action #49 of the Oslo Action Plan: “Any State Party implementing obligations in particular under Article 4 or 5, or retaining or transferring mines in line with Article 3 that has not submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing these obligations each year will provide in close cooperation with the ISU an annual update on the status of implementation in line with Article 7 and will provide information to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. If no information on implementing the relevant obligations for two consecutive years is provided, the President will assist and engage with the States Parties concerned in close cooperation with the relevant Committee”. The Committee will work with the President in this regard.

**Table 1: Information on progress in implementation of Article 5 of the Convention as reported in 2022 - Article 7 Transparency Reports (submitted up to 2 June 2022)**

		Reported Progress made				Reported Remaining Challenge					
		Cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> )	Reduced (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total (m <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>2</sup>	Number of SHAs	Suspected Hazardous Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Number of CHAs	Total number of mined areas to be addressed	Total areas to be addressed (m <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>3</sup>	
1	Afghanistan										
2	Angola	1 247 264	1 553 063	21 136 235	23 936 562				1,097	71 490 781	
3	Argentina <sup>4</sup>										
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	24 190 000	9 140 000	610 000	33 940 000					922 370 000	
5	Cambodia	25 602 965	8 935 521	43 725 673	78 264 159	8,287	715 901 899		8,287	715 901 899	
6	Chad										
7	Colombia	96,372.40	6,978	1,266,278	1,369,628.9	188	1,333,834	219	1,623,015	2,956,849	
8	Croatia	11 999 858		34 483 250	46 483 108		67 600 000		136 800 000	233 900 000	
9	Cyprus <sup>5</sup>										
10	Democratic Republic of the Congo										
11	Ecuador <sup>6</sup>						32 535		7 521	6	40 056
12	Eritrea										
13	Ethiopia										
14	Guinea Bissau							9	1 093 840	52	1 093 840
15	Iraq <sup>7</sup>	96 684 361	3 016 743	11 403 246	111 104 350	527	191 846 821	4,645	1 544 157 889	5,172	1 736 004 710
16	Mauritania										
17	Niger <sup>8</sup>										177 760
18	Nigeria										
19	Oman										
20	Palestine, State of										
21	Peru <sup>9</sup>	1 396,53	1 911,95	7 768,89	11 077					102	359 214
22	Senegal <sup>10</sup>					9		37		491,086.374	491,086.374
23	Serbia			294 230	294 230	3	561 000			3	561 000
24	Somalia										
25	South Sudan	34 542		249 893	284 435	49	4 413 856	65	2 992 036	114	7 405 892
26	Sri Lanka										
27	Sudan	823 798		19 099	842 897	41	9 962 619	61	3 313 221	102	13 275 840
28	Tajikistan	59 427	292 580	373 440	725 447	82	4 477 493	138	7 338 977	220	11 816 470
29	Thailand	20 409 492	2 179 324	525 847	23 114 663	32	18 242 842	160	21 783 578	192	40 026 420
30	Türkiye	4 000 000	81 298	413 851	4 495 149			3,804	140 586 889	3,804	140 586 889
31	Ukraine										
32	Yemen			10 635 886	10 635 886						12 995 161
33	Zimbabwe	5 674 052	3 167 116	2 440 425	11 281 593				23 507 427	131 <sup>11</sup>	23 507 427

**Table 2: Information provided by States on implementation on relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan (2022)**

No.	State Party	Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2022 <sup>12</sup>	Level of clarity on the remaining implementation challenge (Action #18)	Relevant Action of the Oslo Action Plan – Mine Clearance																	
				1	2	3	5	6	8	9	18	19	20	21	22	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	Afghanistan																				
2	Angola	√	Some clarity		√		√		√	√	√	√			√	√	√				√
3	Argentina	√																			
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	√	Some clarity	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√				√	√	√	√	√	√
5	Cambodia	√	Some clarity	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√				√	√	√	√	√	√
6	Chad																				
7	Colombia	√	Clarity	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
8	Croatia	√	Clarity	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√
9	Cyprus	√																			
10	Democratic Republic of Congo	√	Clarity		√							√									√
11	Ecuador	√	High degree of clarity		√		√		√	√	√	√			√	√	√				√
12	Eritrea																				
13	Ethiopia																				
14	Guinea Bissau	√	Some clarity	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√			√	√	√			√	√
15	Iraq	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
16	Mauritania																				
17	Niger	√	Some clarity		√		√					√	√				√				
18	Nigeria																				
19	Oman																				
20	Palestine, State of																				
21	Peru	√	High degree of clarity		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√				√
22	Senegal	√	Some clarity	√	√			√	√		√	√	√		√	√					√
23	Serbia	√	Some clarity	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	√	√		√
24	Somalia																				
25	South Sudan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√
26	Sri Lanka																				
27	Sudan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√
28	Tajikistan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√
29	Thailand	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√
30	Türkiye	√	Some clarity	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
31	Ukraine																				
32	Yemen	√	Clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
33	Zimbabwe	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√			√

<sup>1</sup> APLC/MSP.12/2012/4 Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process

<sup>2</sup> The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on areas released in a disaggregated manner.

<sup>3</sup> The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on the remaining challenge in a disaggregated manner.

<sup>4</sup> In 2010, Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Argentina to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Argentina indicated that it did not have effective control over the areas in question.

<sup>5</sup> In 2013, Cyprus reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Cyprus to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Cyprus indicated that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question.

<sup>6</sup> Ecuador reported no progress in 2021 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>7</sup> The figures for Iraq include aggregated data including anti-personnel mines and anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature. Including in areas under the responsibility of the DMA a total of 360 mined areas measuring 998,679,184 square metres, including 317 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 981,388,638 square metres and 43 suspected hazardous areas measuring 17,290,546 square metres, remain to be addressed. The DMA also reported a total of 1,522 areas containing IEDs in 28 districts measuring 524,264,500 square metres, including 1,187 confirmed IED areas measuring 381,662,714 square metres and 335 IED areas suspected to contain IEDs measuring 142,601,786 square metres. Iraq reported that in areas under the responsibility of IKMAA a total of 3,225 mined areas in 28 districts measuring 210,168,929 square metres, including 3,103 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 180,384,163 square metres and 122 suspected hazardous areas measuring 29,784,766 square metres remain to be addressed. IKMAA also reported 65 areas containing IEDs measuring 2,892,097 square metres, including 38 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 722,374 square metres and 27 suspected hazardous areas measuring 2,169,723 square metres.

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<sup>8</sup> Niger reported no progress in 2021 due to adverse weather conditions, the need for security on the Niamey – Madama route, and the lack of resources of the National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Weapons (CNCCA).

<sup>9</sup> Peru reported that humanitarian demining operations were re-started in the period August – November after a period of cessation due to impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>10</sup> Senegal reported no progress in 2021 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>11</sup> Zimbabwe reported a remaining challenge of 6 mined areas divided into 131 Sectors.

<sup>12</sup> Source: Information as provided by States Parties in their Article 7 reports submitted until 10 June 2022, unless otherwise noted. Article 7.2: The information provided in accordance with this Article shall be updated by the States Parties annually, covering the last calendar year, and reported to the Secretary General of the United Nations not later than 30 April of each year". Accordingly, in order to accommodate States Parties, Article 7 Transparency reports were accepted by the Committee for the benefit of transmitting its general observations until 10 June 2022. Information submitted by States Parties after 10 June 2022 will be considered in the conclusions of the Committee submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, (20MSP).