

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

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

Intersessional Meetings 20 – 22 June 2022

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CROATIA

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

1. Croatia reported that in 2021 it released 45,839,344 square metres, including 11,732,066 square metres by survey and 34,107,289 square metres cleared, in the process destroying 1,214 anti-personnel mines, 48 anti-tank mines, and 810 other items of explosive ordnance.
2. Croatia also reported that 643,764 square metres of mined area under the authority of the Ministry of Defence was released, including 375,961 square metres cleared, in the process destroying 18 anti-personnel mines, and 1,328 other items of explosive ordnance.
3. Croatia also reported that non-technical surveyed identified 770,121 square metres of mined area. The Committee would welcome additional information on the number of mined areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and the impact of survey on Croatia's Article 5 deadline and annual milestones.
4. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Croatia's 2020 updated workplan. The Committee further observed that the information provided by Croatia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee observed that Croatia had provided disaggregated information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (Action #8, Action #22).

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

5. The Committee observed that Croatia provided clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Croatia reported a remaining challenge of 204.4 square kilometres in 37 municipalities that are known or suspected to contain 13,856 anti-personnel mines, including confirmed hazardous areas measuring 136.8 square kilometres, and suspected mined areas measuring 67.6 square kilometres. Croatia also reported mined areas under the authority of the Ministry of Defence measuring 29.5 square kilometres (Action #22).
6. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. The

¹ "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 and districts including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel and the size of the areas.

Committee observed that Croatia was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Croatia in this regard (Action #18).

7. Croatia reported on its efforts to establish its baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee noted the importance of Croatia continuing to provide information on Croatia's efforts in this regard (Action #18).

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

8. The Committee observed that Croatia had a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place (Action #2, #19). The Committee observed Croatia projected to address 63.3 square kilometres in 2022, 63.7 square kilometres in 2023, 59.9 square kilometres in 2024, and 47.0 square kilometres in 2025 (Action #20).
9. The Committee observed that Croatia in its updated work plan submitted in 2022 included annual updates to their national work plans based on new evidence and reported on adjusted milestones, including on how priorities have been established for addressing Croatia's remaining challenge in forested areas (Action #20).
10. Croatia reported on its national financial commitments towards implementation, including 69.8% of funds financed through the State budget and 30.2% of funds realised through European Union contributions (Action #1).
11. Croatia reported on its efforts to integrate convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and humanitarian response plans, including cooperation with different authorities in the implementation of obligations under international treaties and conventions, and implementation of sustainable development and environmental projects (Action #1).
12. Croatia reported on its efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans (Action #6).
13. The Committee observed that Croatia in its updated work plan submitted in 2022 reported on the results of the "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" project survey that aims to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation, including the establishment of an explosive ordnance database that will serve to direct future projects in this regard. (Action #3).
14. Action #26 of the OAP requests States to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. The Committee observed that Croatia had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas following completion in their national strategies and/or completion plans, and would welcome information in this regard.

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

16. Action #5 of the OAP requests states to keep national mine action standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS, adapt them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation. The Committee observed that Croatia had not

provided updated information on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date and would welcome further information in this regard.

15. Croatia reported on its efforts 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, including a comprehensive explosive ordnance database. (Action #9).

16. The Committee observed that Croatia had provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations, including the organisation of the 17th International Symposium Mine Action (Action #27).

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

17. The Committee recalled that in granting Croatia's request, the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) requested Croatia to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed Croatia had provided the following information:

- Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available in the Croatian State budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts, including European Union Structural and Cohesion funds, and Cross-border Cooperation funds;
- Progress in continuing land release relative to the commitments made in Croatia's annual work plan, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Croatia's work plan;

18. The Committee would welcome updated information from Croatia on the following decisions of the 17MSP:

- Updates regarding the development and implementation of Croatia's National Mine Action Strategy (2019-2026);
- Updates regarding the full range of practical methods used to release land, in line with the latest land release standards, including the use of mechanical assets and animal detection systems in forested areas as well as relevant information on the training of national mine personnel, operators, in new methodologies and quality control, with reference to relevant national standards; and
- Updates regarding the structure of Croatia's mine action programme, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

19. The Committee recalled that the 17MSP had requested that Croatia submit an updated work plan to the 20MSP, The Committee observed that Croatia had acted on the decisions of the 17MSP by submitting an updated work plan, including; an updated detailed list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget.

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

20. Action #32 of the OAP requests States to Report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee observed that, while Croatia reported on the methodologies used and the challenges faced, Croatia had not provided information in its Article 7 report on the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome further information in this regard.
21. Croatia reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education with Croatian Ministries, government and State administrative offices, as well as international organisations, non-government organisations, education system with pre-school and school age children, and the Police Department as part of, 'Less Arms, Less Tragedies' public campaign (Action #28).
22. Croatia reported on the project, "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" which included the establishment of a comprehensive Explosive Ordnance (EO) database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages that will serve to direct future projects in this regard (Action #29).
23. Croatia reported on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements (Action #30).
24. Action #31 of the OAP requests States to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered. The Committee observed that Croatia had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report and would welcome further information in this regard.

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

25. The Committee observed that Croatia had provided information on the challenge of COVID-19 on the implementation of MRE/R programmes. .

The OAP country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Croatia
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#2	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
#3	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#5	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						The Committee would welcome information on Croatia's efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), adapt them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						
#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						

	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans							The Committee would welcome information on Croatia's efforts to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.
#26	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas							
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties							
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means							
MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION								
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)	
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant							
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place							
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs							
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes							
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered							The Committee would welcome information on Croatia's efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered.
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results							

