

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 GUINEA - BISSAU

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

1. Guinea-Bissau reported that in 2021 it carried out assessments of mined areas.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Guinea-Bissau 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 Guinea-Bissau 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 Guinea-Bissau had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report in a manner consistent with IMAS and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #22).
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 Guinea-Bissau had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report on the number and types of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war addressed in a disaggregated manner and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #22).

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

6. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau provided some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Guinea-Bissau reported a remaining challenge of 52 mined areas, including 9 confirmed mined areas measuring 1,093,840 square metres located in 5 Regions, and 43 suspected hazardous areas of unknown size located in 6 Regions (Action #22).
7. The Committee encourages Guinea-Bissau to continue to report in provide information its Article 7 report on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas (Action #22).

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.

8. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States that have not yet done so will 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, no later than by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021. The Committee observed that while Guinea-Bissau had reported the results of assessments of mined areas and that these assessments form part of Guinea-Bissau's efforts to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, in an effort to establish an evidence-based, accurate baseline of contamination. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau in this regard (Action #18).
9. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had reported that CAAMI will require operators to constitute their operational teams taking into consideration matters related to gender and diversity, and that it will seek to build capacity on gender and diversity. The Committee would welcome further information from Guinea-Bissau on the timeline for recruitment, training and deployment of gender-based teams in this regard (Action #18).

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

10. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau in its 2022 extension request submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, (20MSP) indicated having a national mine action plan in place for the period (2022-2024), including completion of national non-technical survey and re-survey of confirmed hazardous areas (Action #2, Action #19).
11. Guinea-Bissau reported making an annual national financial commitment of an estimated US \$40,000 to the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI) (Action #1).
12. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau in its 2022 extension request indicated its efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans. The Committee encourages Guinea-Bissau to provide further information on its efforts in this regard (Action #1, Action #6).
13. Action #20 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidenced and report on adjusted milestones. The Committee observed that while Guinea-Bissau had in place a work plan, Guinea-Bissau was not in a position to report annual adjusted milestones and on how priorities have been established (Action #20).
14. Guinea-Bissau reported to promote at all stages of its programme gender and diversity inclusion. The Committee had observed that Guinea-Bissau had reported on its efforts to deliver an inclusive approach and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #3).
15. Guinea-Bissau reported it will work on defining a national strategy for residual risk management and on the strengthening of national capacities in order to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. The Committee would welcome further information from Guinea Bissau on its efforts, including a timeline for the approval of the strategy (Action #26).

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

16. Guinea-Bissau reported that although the national Mine Action standards (NMAS) are an essential component of the Mine Action strategy that Guinea-Bissau does not have existing NMAS. Guinea-

Bissau also reported that CAAMI will name a focal point responsible for the development, application and revision of national standards in line with IMAS. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau is its 2022 extension request indicated that the development of national standards in line with IMAS to be fulfilled by the end of the current Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2022 and welcomes the information from Guinea-Bissau and its efforts to ensure that its National Mine Action Standards reflect the latest methodologies in line with IMAS (Action #5).

17. Guinea-Bissau reported that although information management is an essential component of the Mine Action strategy, Guinea-Bissau does not have a proper information management system. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau is currently working on addressing this deficiency and expending resource to put in place a capacity for Information Management. The Committee noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau continuing to report on the design and implementation of information management systems to ensure that they are nationally owned, sustainable and take into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion (Action #9).
18. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey, including the update of National Standards in this regard. The Committee encourages Guinea-Bissau 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 and would welcome further information of Guinea-Bissau's efforts in this regard (Action #27).

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

19. In considering Guinea-Bissau's 2021 extension request, the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties requested Guinea-Bissau to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Guinea-Bissau on:
 - A detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for the extension period, containing information on progress made, the result of assessment efforts, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, using terminology consistent with the IMAS and disaggregated by the type of explosive ordnance, annual projections of which areas and amount of area would be dealt with during the requested extension period and by which organisation, matched to a detailed budget;
 - An overview of the survey and clearance methodologies to be employed, including the standards to be employed;
 - Plans to address the challenges faced by the National Mine Action Coordination Center (CAAMI) and efforts to ensure the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, discovered following completion;
 - 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;
 - The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension with information on victims disaggregated by gender and age; and
 - Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Guinea-Bissau to support implementation efforts, including

through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

20. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on the following decisions of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties:

- A detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account;

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

21. Action #32 of the Oslo Action Plan 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 Guinea-Bissau reported that at present Mine Risk Education activities are not active in Guinea-Bissau and that Guinea-Bissau aims to resume risk education programme in 2022. The Committee observed the importance of Guinea-Bissau having in place capacity to ensure that, “mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The Committee further observed the importance of Guinea-Bissau 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 (Action #32)

22. Action #28 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts. The Committee observed the importance of Guinea-Bissau reporting on its efforts in this regard (Action #28).

23. Action #29 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk. To ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau reported on its plans to undertake a study on knowledge, attitudes, and practices with regards to the explosive threat to identify the at-risk groups and behaviours, the best ways to disseminate the messages in the national context. The Committee noted that while these activities form part of Guinea-Bissau’s efforts to have in place mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations. The Committee observed the importance of Guinea-Bissau providing updated information on its efforts to conduct context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk, to ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account (Action #29)

24. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to analyse data from 1,518 recorded casualties from the independence war until 2012 and 73 recorded victims between 2012 – 2022, a study on knowledge, attitudes, and practices with regards to the explosive threat to identify the at-risk groups and behaviours, the best ways to disseminate the messages in the national context. The Committee further observed that Guinea-Bissau will target as priority areas the 9 communities in which the presence of hazards had been confirmed by HUMAID. The

Committee noted that while these activities were part of Guinea-Bissau having in place mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages linked to affected population's behaviours, risk patterns and coping mechanisms (Action #30).

25. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had reported that CAAMI will identify community activists from youth associations that are willing to enrol in relaying EORE messages at their community levels through door-to-door or public interventions. The Committee noted that while these activities were part of Guinea-Bissau's efforts to establish an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for MRE/R programmes, the Committee observed the importance of Guinea-Bissau 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 and welcomes further information in this regard (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

26. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau in its 2022 extension request provided quality information on challenges in implementation of Article 5 obligations, including widespread contamination by exploded ordnance which is only partially known and has never been systematically assessed; no capacity to demarcate, mark and remove the EO threat; no functional information system available to support the Mine Action activities; no national standards to frame and improve the safety, quality and efficiency of the Mine Action activities; and a lack of financial resources. The Committee further observed that Guinea-Bissau reported that there had not been any contribution from international donors and implementing partners during the reporting period.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker

Article 5 Implementation

Guinea - Bissau

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						
#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						The Committee would welcome information on Guinea – Bissau's efforts by providing quality information on progress and challenges in implementing the Convention, employing 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						The Committee would welcome information on Guinea – Bissau’s efforts to annually update their national work plans based on new evidenced and report on adjusted milestones.
	# 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						
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						

	% 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						The Committee would welcome information on Guinea – Bissau’s efforts 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. to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts.
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						The Committee would welcome information on Guinea – Bissau’s efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk.
	% 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						The Committee would welcome information on Guinea – Bissau’s efforts to ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.
#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						
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						

