

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 SOUTH SUDAN

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

1. South Sudan reported that in 2021 it addressed 11 mined areas measuring 284,435 square metres, including 34,542 square metres cancelled and 249,893 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 31 anti-personnel mines and 59 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. The Committee recalled that South Sudan in its updated work plan submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) indicated that the area of Canal and Khor Fulus has 19 hazards on 1,434,367 m² which are blocked currently. South Sudan further indicated, as per current estimates that 6 mined areas measuring 998,620 square metres were under the water since early 2020. South Sudan indicated that it will continue to mark, where possible, all known and suspected mined areas in this location. South Sudan has a monitoring system to identify any shift in water level that could be addressed through land release, and South Sudan will continue to deliver EORE to those populations living and working around these mined areas. The committee welcomed the information from South Sudan and would welcome further updates on the monitoring of flooded areas in this regard.
3. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in South Sudan's 2020 Extension Request. The Committee observed that information provided by South Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2020 Extension Request. The Committee welcomed South Sudan providing 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)

4. The Committee observed that South Sudan reported a high degree of clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). South Sudan reported a remaining challenge of 114 mined areas measuring 7,405,892 square metres located in 8 States, including, 65 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 2,992,036 square metres and 49 suspected hazardous areas measuring 4,413,856 square metres (Action #22).

¹ "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), 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.

5. The Committee welcomed South Sudan reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, and type of contamination (Action #22).
6. 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 South Sudan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas (Action #18).
7. The Committee observed that South Sudan in its 2022 updated workplan submitted to the Twentieth meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) included an update on its efforts to establish its baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men, including the re-structure of survey and report forms to strengthen gender representation and to enhance the consulting of women, girls and boys during surveys and consultation on the baseline (Action #18).

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

8. The Committee recalled that South Sudan's extension request in 2020 contained a national evidence based and costed plan for survey and clearance in place (Action #2, Action #19). South Sudan's extension request also indicated a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period 2019-2023) (Action #2).
9. The Committee observed that South Sudan in its 2022 updated workplan submitted to the 20MSP contained milestones categorised by manual clearance, mechanical clearance and road clearance outputs. This includes the following manual mine clearance outputs; 50 mined areas measuring 1,680,000 square metres in 2022, 45 mined areas measuring 1,680,000 square metres in 2023, 40 mined areas measuring 1,050,000 square metres in 2024, 40 mined areas measuring 1,050,000 square metres in 2025, and 7 mined areas measuring 456,484 square metres in 2026, the following mechanical clearance milestones; 20 mined areas measuring 1,050,000 square metres in 2022, and 19 mined areas measuring 1,050,000 annually for the period 2023-2026; the following milestones for road clearance; 14 mined areas measuring 1,920,000 square metres in 2022, and 10 mined areas measuring 927,158 square metres in 2023.
10. South Sudan reported that the national work plan has been integrated into national development plans. South Sudan further reported that despite budget being allocated for staff salaries there has not been an additional allocations from the state budget for implementation of the work plan (Action #1, Action #6).
11. South Sudan reported in detail on its efforts 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 development by the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Affairs (MGCSW) of the National Gender Policy (NGP) 2012, with a national strategic plan developed in 2013 and a national action plan developed in 2015–2020 on UNSCR 1325 with regard to women, peace and security, launched in 2016. South Sudan also reported the establishment of a network of institutions with the mandate to promote gender equality and women empowerment at the national and state level, across sectors in cooperation with donors, NGOs, CSOs and the private sector, with the training of Gender Focal Points from all line ministries and commission for the Implementation of the gender policy and action plan as well as to monitor and report the progress in the inter-ministerial committee. South Sudan also reported that gender focal persons provide input to programme and operations staff on how to improve gender mainstreaming in their activities, provide ad hoc support to programme staff in their implementation of activities with a targeted gender focus and ensuring

gender is integrated into the M&E frameworks. South Sudan further reported the mainstreaming of gender into the National Strategy for mine action and ensure that priority setting considers the involvement of women in needs assessment, the recruitment of women and men deminers and encourages the employment of persons with disabilities. (Action #3).

12. South Sudan reported that it has established one explosive ordnance disposal team (EOD) in 2021. South Sudan further reported that the team faces funding challenges to enable the team to resume operations (Action #26).

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

13. South Sudan reported that its national mine action Standards are updated every year to address emerging challenges and promote best practices (Action #5).

14. South Sudan reported that data is held in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) is located within the United Nations and further reported the challenge of building sustainability due to the database held in the UN and not the NMAA (Action #9).

15. The Committee recalled that South Sudan in its 2022 updated workplan submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP), had reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance including the use of mechanical ground preparation prior to engaging manual mine clearance assets as the application of only manual clearance will not be a cost-effective approach (Action #27).

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

16. In considering South Sudan's 2020 extension request, the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) requested South Sudan to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by South Sudan on;

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in South Sudan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period, providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination and in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
- Progress on security-related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas; and,
- Efforts made to reconfigure personnel to form larger teams and the results of these efforts;
- The impact of annual progress on annual targets as given in South Sudan's work plan including adjusted milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- Updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

- Updates regarding the structure of South Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion; and,
- Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of South Sudan to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to strengthen the capacity of the National Mine Action Authority and facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities.

17. The Committee recalled that the 18MSP had requested South Sudan to submit an updated work plan to the 20MSP. The Committee observed that South Sudan had acted on the decisions of the 18MSP 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.

18. The Committee further observed that South Sudan could provide additional information on its efforts to develop a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities as well as provisions for 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)

19. South Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R) the methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).

20. The Committee recalled that in its 2020 extension request, South Sudan indicated that Risk education is fully integrated into wider humanitarian activities, including the Protection Cluster, the humanitarian response plan and the South Sudan development strategy. South Sudan also reported that the Ministry of Education has integrated MRE into primary schools (Action #28).

21. South Sudan reported that its risk education efforts are informed through a needs assessment conducted by implementing partners and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs of at-risk communities into account. South Sudan reported that community liaison team comprise of both women and men teams (Action #29).

22. South Sudan reported that MRE activities are developed through a needs assessment and analysis of casualty data to respond to at-risk behaviours. South Sudan also reported that MRE activities are prioritised for at-risk groups, including pastoralists, agricultural farmers, as well as internally displaced-persons and refugees. South Sudan further reported prioritisation given towards road construction, infrastructure development, hospitals and schools (Action #30).

23. South Sudan reported that the Ministry of Education integrated MRE into primary school as a sustainable capacity. South Sudan also reported that most partners train community leaders to help deliver knowledge on the risk of anti-personnel mines (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

24. South Sudan provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including; a. The lack of State budget allocations for the implementation of the national mine action strategy, the national EOD team, and national non-governmental organisations; b. Insecurity also limited access to some locations; c. Poor weather caused flooding of many places, including minefields; and d. The impact of COVID-19 on public gatherings.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
South Sudan
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						
	# 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						
#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						
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						

