

## 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 YEMEN

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

1. Yemen reported that the nationwide non-technical survey / Yemen baseline survey (YBLS) began in June 2021. Yemen reported that it carried out 174 non-technical survey activities in 6 Governorates, resulting in 171 registered hazardous areas, in the process destroying 1,676 anti-personnel mines, 36,866 anti-tank mines, 83,138 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and 2,439 improvised explosive devices.
2. Yemen reported that the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the banner of the Saudi Project for Landmine Clearance MASAM (MASAM) Project cleared 10,635,886 square metres in the process destroying 1,689 anti-personnel mines, 40,759 anti-tank mines, 47,046 items of UXO, and 413 improvised explosive devices.
3. The Committee observed that Yemen reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and would welcome additional information, to the extent possible, on the disaggregation of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature from other types of improvised explosive devices (Action #21).
4. The Committee observed while the information provided by Yemen on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided in its 2019 extension request. The Committee welcomed Yemen using the Guide to Reporting (Action #8).
5. 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 Yemen had not provided information in its 2022 Article 7 report on progress in implementation in accordance with the land release methodology employed.

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

6. The Committee observed that Yemen provided some clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge including a list of results from non-technical survey, categorising contamination status by community, district, and Governorate (Action #18).
7. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) 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

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<sup>1</sup> “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.

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 recalled that Yemen in its 2019 extension request granted by the Fourth Review Conference (4RC) indicated a remaining challenge of 326 hazardous areas measuring 12,995,161 square metres. The Committee further observed that Yemen in its 2022 extension request submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP), indicated that the remaining challenge was based on landmine impact surveys (LIS) and as security improves Yemen will undertake survey to update Yemen's baseline. The Committee observed that Yemen was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updates on these efforts.

8. Yemen reported on its efforts to establish Yemen's baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men and would welcome additional information on Yemen's efforts in this regard (Action #18).
9. Yemen reported on its remaining challenges, to the extent possible, in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size (Action #22).

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

10. The Committee recalled that Yemen in its 2019 extension request included a work plan and budget for mine action activities for the period 2020-2023 (Action #2, Action #19).
11. The Committee observed that Yemen in its 2022 extension request included a workplan for the period of the extension request, including; the continuity of YBLS objectives, producing an annual revised work plan to meet its Article 5 obligations, enhancing and improving Information Management, supporting the coordination office – YMACC, and developing a National Mine Action Strategy. The Committee observed that Yemen had not provided information in its Article 7 Report having in place an evidence-based and costed work plan (Action #19).
12. Yemen reported that as the current situation created a complex environment that to submit a plan offering detailed milestones of progress and the amount of time needed to fulfil Yemen's commitments under Article 5 would be unrealistic. Yemen further reported that current emergency mine action and baseline survey activities will be integrated with workplans in the future, together with the continuity of the objectives as identified by Yemen in its third request. The Committee observed the challenges reported by Yemen and would welcome additional information on the development of national plans for clearance and survey, to the extent possible, for emergency clearance and baseline survey in this regard (Action #2).
13. Yemen reported on its efforts to establish a national prioritisation matrix for mine clearance based on technical working groups comprised of stakeholders at a district level. Yemen also reported that humanitarian organizations submit their prioritization based on UN-OCHA prioritization criterion which YMACC process and make a decision based on operational planning. The Committee observed that Yemen had not reported adjusted milestones and would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #20).
14. Yemen reported that in 2021 the Government of Yemen's annual financial commitment towards implementation was reduced significantly, and that the Government of Yemen only provides staff for YEMAC with limited medical treatment to victims (Action #1).

15. Yemen reported on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, including a humanitarian, disarmament and peacebuilding project. The Committee would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #1).
16. Yemen reported on its efforts to implement a humanitarian and disarmament and peacebuilding project. The Committee observed that Yemen in its 2022 extension request submitted for consideration by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties indicated that prioritisation is undertaken in consultation with district stakeholders and international organisations, and that YEMAC is expanding to allow partnerships with INGOs and commercial companies (Action #6).
17. Yemen reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, including the employment of women in the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) and the Yemen Mine Action Coordination Cell (YMACC). Yemen also reported that the national mine action programme (NMAP) respects diversity and is diligent in performing purely humanitarian duties, regardless of affected people's location and political and ideological affiliation. Yemen reported that INGOs are aware of the different needs of girls, women, boys, and men, and that these needs are taken into account within their planning. Yemen reported deploying 15 women Risk Awareness trainers to ensure the different needs of girls, women, and boys in mine risk education and victim assistance are met. Yemen further indicated 15 women are working in non-technical survey (NTS) (Action #3).
18. Yemen reported on its efforts to open a new branch in Taiz which was only partially opened due to the current funding situation and that due to insecurity and funding the opening of the Marib branch was also delayed. Yemen also reported that capacity building training and mentoring from partner organisations, and that non-technical survey teams also received training on information management planning. Yemen further reported that concerning the efforts in developing sustainable national capacities, the existence of an enabling environment must be taken into consideration, and recalled the challenges indicated in Yemen's 2019 extension request noted that the existence of training plans for various activities have been discussed with partners and some of which have served as EOD and NTS courses. The Committee would welcome additional information from Yemen in this regard (Action #26).

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

19. Yemen reported on its efforts to ensure that its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) reflect the latest methodologies in line with IMAS, including 95% of NMAS being updated and that the current plan is to apply the updated NMAS in parallel while following the legal accreditation from the government, which includes approvals and law procedures. The Committee welcomes the information from Yemen and would welcome further information on the timeline for approval of the relevant NMAS (Action #5).
20. Yemen reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including the design and development by a technical working groups of paper and electronic reporting forms. Yemen also reported that a user guide on the software used and data collection forms was also shared and that training is on-going (Action #9).
21. Yemen reported on its efforts 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, including the deployment of mine detection dogs in support of non-technical survey teams (Action #27).

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

22. In considering Yemen's 2019 extension request, the Fourth Review Conference (4RevCon) of the States Parties requested Yemen to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Yemen on;

- Progress and results of its mine action emergency response efforts;
- Progress in the establishment of a prioritization system; Progress in updating its National Mine Action Standards and Standard Operating Procedures; Progress made in strengthening its information management system;
- Efforts to increase survey and demining capacity, including efforts carried by Yemen to expand partnerships with international non-governmental organizations and commercial companies and the result of these efforts;
- Progress made in the establishment of YEMAC (Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre) branches in Taiz and Marib; and
- Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities; and Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation.

23. The Committee would welcome updated information from Yemen on the following decisions of the 4RevCon:

- Progress made in addressing mined areas during the extension period disaggregated in accordance with the IMAS by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared;
- The outcome of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Yemen's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;
- Resources obtained relative to needs expressed in the request, including resources provided by the Government of Yemen itself.

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

24. The Committee observed that Yemen in its 2022 extension request reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including, methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).

25. Yemen reported that risk education is implemented at the same time with clearance activities, and that risk education is included in ongoing emergency response activities (Action #28).

26. Yemen reported that YEMAC/YMACC and INGOs are aware of the different needs of girls, women, boys and men and that these considerations are taken into account in their planning. Yemen further reported that YEMAC has deployed 15 women Risk Awareness trainers to ensure the different needs of girls, women and boys can be met (Action #29).

27. Yemen reported on establishing a priority setting system to determine the priority of the areas that are needed for Mine risk Education and that risk education is delivered to the most vulnerable groups as part of humanitarian emergency response, and that periodic meetings are held for mine action managers on risk education matters. Yemen also reported that YMACC/YEMAC, through the support of the relevant authorities, gathers information about the potential contaminated locations on a national database with some operational and tasking decisions (Action #30).

28. Yemen reported on its efforts to conduct training of trainees through the involvement of local authorities, civil society organizations and relevant ministerial bodies (Action #31).

## **VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)**

29. Yemen reported in detail on the challenges in implementation of its Article 5 obligations, including lack of access to explosives or other means to destroy explosive ordnance in place, the impact of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and a lack of funding, including intermittent payment of salaries and non-insurance or pension plans in place, as well as limited Government support due to economic challenges. Yemen reported that the contribution from the Government of Yemen has decreased significantly and the inconsistent international donor funding makes planning difficult and impacts the mine action sectors ability to efficiently expand to meet current challenges.

30. Yemen reported further challenges including, increasing level of contamination, new improvised explosive device technologies, the presence of different contamination, priorities to respond to conflict in liberated areas. Yemen also reported in detail on challenges in providing capacity building to address new contamination, including requirement of new medical equipment, risk education materials, telecommunication assets, and transport.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Yemen**  
**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
<b>#1</b>	# 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						
<b>#2</b>	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
<b>#3</b>	% 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						
<b>#5</b>	% 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						
<b>#6</b>	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
<b>#8</b>	# 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						
<b>#9</b>	% 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						The Committee would welcome information on Yemen's efforts 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).
	% 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						
<b>MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION</b>							
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	■	■	■			

