

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 ZIMBABWE

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

1. Zimbabwe reported that in 2021 it released 60 “sectors” of mined areas measuring 11,281,593 square metres, including 5,674,052 square metres cancelled, 3,167,116 square metres reduced, and 2,440,425 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 26,457 anti-personnel mines, and 3 items of explosive ordnance.
2. Zimbabwe also reported that as a result of survey an additional 448,734 square metres of mined area was identified.
3. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was above that projected in Zimbabwe’s 2019 updated work plan. The Committee also observed that the information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2019 updated work plan. The Committee welcomed Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe provided a high degree of clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Zimbabwe reported a remaining challenge of 6 mined areas categorised into 131 sectors measuring 23,507,427 square metres (Action #22).

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

5. The Committee recalled that Zimbabwe’s updated work plan submitted in 2019 contained a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey for the period 2020-2025 (Action #2, Action #19). Zimbabwe further reported having a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period (2018-2025) (Action #2).
6. Zimbabwe reported adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including information on the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually, 6,332,466 square metres in 2022, 7,545,299 square metres in 2023, 5,708,601 square metres in 2024, and 3,921,061 square metres in 2025. (Action #20).

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”), information on the geographic location of each area.

7. Zimbabwe reported an annual national financial commitment to the implementation of obligation of US \$500,000 (Action #1).
8. Zimbabwe reported that ZIMAC made submissions to have mine action integrated into national development goals and is awaiting a response. Zimbabwe also reported that while the programme is not mentioned in the current national development plan the programme is included under the need to emancipate remote communities and ensure improve livelihoods. In this regard, Zimbabwe reported that the clearance of mines is unlocking land for communities to engage in developmental activities (Action #1, Action #6).
9. Zimbabwe reported that women deminers are employed within international demining NGOs and have management roles in the Zimbabwe Mine Action Programme. Zimbabwe further reported that women are being encouraged to fully participate in the programme and that all mine action data is disaggregated by women, girls, boys, and men ensuring that the needs and perspectives of the respective groups are considered (Action #3).
10. Zimbabwe reported having in place the National Mine Clearance Units (NMCU) that can provide a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas following completion (Action #26).

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

11. Zimbabwe reported that its working on updating the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) in accordance with the latest IMAS, with plans underway to begin updating NMAS in 2022, with a focus on mine detection dogs and mechanical clearance by June 2022 (Action #5).
12. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system of contamination which is sustainable (Action #9).
13. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance including the deployment of mechanical assets in tackling deeply buried mines on hard ground and in areas with highly mineralised soil. Zimbabwe also reported efficiency of mine detection dogs in carrying out technical survey (Action #27).

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

14. In considering Zimbabwe's 2017 extension request, the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) requested Zimbabwe to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Zimbabwe on;
 - Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Zimbabwe's annual clearance plan during the extension period;
 - Updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including land release standards;
 - Updated detailed annual plans for the implementation of its extension request based on new information gathered from progress in implementation;
 - Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land, including reporting outcomes concerning two pilot projects concerning mechanical Assets and Mine Detection Dogs; and

- Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Zimbabwe to support implementation efforts; Information on Zimbabwe's efforts to ensure that mine action is considered within national development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit Zimbabwe's resource mobilisation efforts.

15. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had also acted on the decisions of the 16MSP by providing information in line with the following decision of the 16MSP; Progress on Zimbabwe's commitment to relocate the ZIMAC outside of military installations once the Ministry of Defence obtains required funds.

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

16. Zimbabwe reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, including implementation of mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R) including the methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).

17. Zimbabwe reported that MRE/R is integrated with education, and ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities and that efforts are being made to integrate risk education into the school curriculum. The Committee welcomes the information from Zimbabwe and would welcome further information on the approval timeline for integrating risk education into the school curriculum (Action #28).

18. Action #29 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk. To ensure 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 Zimbabwe had reported that based on 2020 cases a new strategy has to be formulated to ensure risk messaging reaches every corner of the country, and welcomes input from the international community to assist in implementing the actions of the OAP, including methods to reduce cattle from straying into mined areas. Zimbabwe also reported that while it is seeking to provide context-specific risk education these efforts were restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee welcomes the information from Zimbabwe and would welcome further information on the timeline for the development of a needs assessment.

19. Action #30 of the OAP requests States 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. The Committee observed that, while Zimbabwe reported that MRE/R programmes target local communities as part of survey, clearance activities, and an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, Zimbabwe reported challenges in its efforts to link mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data and would welcome additional information in this regard.

20. Zimbabwe reported that MRE/R programmes delivered by Army Engineers have been restricted due to COVID-19 and that national capacity has to be revised and improved. The Committee would welcome further information from Zimbabwe on its efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

21. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had reported on the challenges in implementation of its Article 5 obligations, including the impact of COVID-19 on mine action activities, the delay of updates to NMAS due to a number of challenges, and the need for an increase in funding to the NCMU in order to replace its detectors which have since passed operational life span.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Zimbabwe
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						
#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						
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						The Committee would welcome additional information from Zimbabwe on its 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 additional information from Zimbabwe on its efforts to ensure 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						The Committee would welcome additional information from Zimbabwe on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly

