

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS**  
**COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION**  
**(Colombia, France (Chair), Iraq, and Sweden)**

**Intersessional Meetings**  
**19 – 21 June 2023**

**PART 1: Introduction**

**I. Activities of the Committee**

1. The Committee first met on 13 January 2023 to discuss its work plan towards the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties and has met regularly since this time. During this meeting the ISU provided the Committee with an overview of the Committee’s mandate as well as the work of the Committee in 2022. The Committee also selected amongst its members a gender focal point.
2. On 7 March 2023 the Committee distributed communications to the following 12 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Somalia, Tajikistan and Türkiye - that were due to submit updated work plans in 2023 in accordance with previously granted extension requests and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by States Parties on their requests for extension.
3. From February to May 2023 the Committee participated with representatives of the Coordinating Committee in 14 bilateral meetings with the following States Parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Oman, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Zimbabwe to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing their Article 5 commitments and respective obligations under thematic areas of the Convention. The Committee used this opportunity to remind States Parties of their obligations under the Convention and the importance of their adherence with the decision on their respective extension request, where relevant.
4. On 9 March 2023, the Committee together with the President and representatives of the Coordinating Committee participated in a workshop encouraging adherence of States Parties to their obligation to submit Article 7 Reports by 30 April 2023 and encouraging States Parties to include detailed quantitative and qualitative information on implementation of their Convention commitments in line with the Guide to reporting and the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.
5. The workshop also encouraged States Parties to increase reporting on the methodologies employed in land release and mine risk education and risk reduction activities and on considerations of gender and diversity.
6. In the context of the invitation offered by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties to “the incoming Committee on Article 5 Implementation to assess the Article 5 extension request process and challenges, based on the previously adopted decisions by States Parties and, taking into consideration other documents on this matter, determine whether there would be a common ground for strengthening the process, including the considerations of all relevant stakeholders in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner, in particular mine affected States, and to report its conclusions and recommendations at the Twenty-first Meeting of States Parties”; The Committee

convened a meeting with Coordinating Committee members to receive feedback on the Article 5 Extension Request process and determine whether there would be a common ground for strengthening the process. The Committee also invited the ICBL to offer its feedback and to provide clarity concerning the proposal raised at the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee intends to continue the discussion with relevant parties in order to reach a determination of whether there is common ground for strengthening the process. The Committee will report its conclusions and recommendations at the Twenty-first Meeting of States Parties in accordance with the decision of the 20MSP.

7. During the Intersessional Meetings the Committee will invite States Parties with Article 5 extension request deadlines in 2024/2025 and 2026 to recall the process, offer initial advice in the development of request and consult with mine affected States Parties on matters related to the extension request process and the decision of the 20MSP. Furthermore, the Committee intends to hold a number of bilateral meetings on the margins of the Intersessional Meetings.
8. During first half of the year, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation worked with the Presidency and the President to engage Eritrea which remains in non-compliance with the Convention, including by signing, on 7 March 2023, together with the member of the Coordinating Committee a communication to Eritrea from the Coordinating Committee encouraging Eritrea to return to compliance as soon as possible.
9. The Committee carried out a number of efforts to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Article 5 extension request process as established by the States Parties, as follows:
  - a. Ukraine submitted a request for extension of its deadline on 31 March 2023. Following the receipt of the request, the Committee made the request available on the Convention's website and began its pre-analysis of the request. The Committee also sent a letter to all States Parties informing them of the receipt of Ukraine's request and where the request could be accessed on the Convention's website.
  - b. Following the pre-analysis the Committee determined that the request did not contain sufficient information to carry out its mandate to analyse the request, on 26 April 2023 the Committee initiated a cooperative dialogue with Ukraine and requested additional information from Ukraine in line with the working methods for the analysis of Article 5 extension requests<sup>1</sup>.
  - c. On 2 June 2023, Ukraine submitted additional information to the Committee on Article 5. The additional information was subsequently uploaded to the Convention's website.
  - d. On 10 June 2023 the Committee invited expert organisations to provide expert input on the request submitted by Ukraine in accordance with the process established by the States Parties in support of its dialogue with Ukraine.
  - e. The Committee will continue its dialogue with Ukraine and expert organizations throughout the extension request process, culminating in the Committee's analysis to be presented to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, in accordance with the process established by the States Parties.

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<sup>1</sup> APLC/MSP.9/2008/4 Page 69, [Appendix I to Annex II](#), Conclusions on working methods drawn by the States Parties mandated to analyse Article 5 Extension requests, 11 March 2008.

10. In the lead up to the Intersessional Meetings, the Committee worked on the development of preliminary observations based on information submitted by the States Parties. The methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations followed established practice as explained below.

## **II. Methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations**

11. The Committee is mandated to “review relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties, including in the context of Article 7 obligations and on efforts undertaken under Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance.”

12. The Committee is further mandated to “review relevant information provided by the States Parties on implementation of the commitments contained in the Oslo Action Plan” and to “consider matters related to gender and diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work.”

13. In preparing its observations the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties in 2023 in the context of Article 7 reporting, information contained in requests for extended deadlines submitted in 2023, information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests such as in updated work plans and any additional information provided in writing by States Parties on Article 5 implementation.

14. In line with its purpose of intensifying efforts to ensure the full implementation of Article 5, and in an effort to build upon the approach established in 2015, taking into account the OAP, adopted at the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee gave particular attention to the following:

- a. Increased clarity regarding progress made and remaining implementation challenges, with this clarity being encouraged through Article 7 reports, Article 5 extension requests and information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests;
- b. Improvements in the measurability of Article 5 implementation over time, with improvements in the quality of information permitting greater understanding and comparability;
- c. Efficient and expedient implementation of evidence based and costed national work plans to achieve completion with commitments to apply the most relevant land release standards and methodologies and including provision for sustainable “capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;”
- d. Delivery of context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk based on needs assessment and tailored to the threat encountered by the population;
- e. Integration of gender and consideration of the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in work plans and strategies.
- f. Provision of quality information on progress and challenges in implementing Article 5 obligations of the Convention.

15. Given the subject matter present in States Parties Article 7 reports with relevant actions of the OAP, including Best Practices for Implementing the Convention, Actions #1-10, Survey and

Clearance of Mined Areas, Actions #18 to #32, and Mine Risk Education and Reduction, Actions #28-32, the Committee proceeded to prepare observations on the following matters:

- Clarity on progress in implementation
- Clarity regarding remaining challenges
- Implementation of national plans for clearance and survey
- Application of land release standards, policies and methodologies
- National information management systems
- Actions related to commitments in extension requests and decisions on requests
- Mine risk reduction and risk reduction efforts
- Integration of gender and consideration of the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities
- Challenges in implementation

16. In reviewing information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation, the Committee noted different degrees of clarity regarding the location of all areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. As a result, the Committee has used terminology in its preliminary observations in the following manner:

- a. “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 and with this list including 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.
- b. “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 / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.
- c. “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 / district within the State.

### **III. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation**

17. At the close of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, 33 States Parties reported having an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention; Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

18. Of the 33 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, as of 2 June 2023 the following States Parties had provided information on progress in implementation:

- a. 22 States Parties – Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe - submitted Article 7 transparency reports containing updated information on implementation of Article 5.

- b. Of the 9 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, and Türkiye - that were due to submit updated work plans by 30 April 2023 pursuant to decisions taken on their requests for extended deadlines:
- 2 State Parties – Colombia and Türkiye - submitted an updated work plan by 30 April 2023.
  - 3 States Party – Nigeria, Senegal and Somalia submitted an updated work plan in May; Nigeria (25 May 2023), Senegal (19 May 2023), Somalia (2 May 2023).
  - 1 State Party – Mauritania informed the Committee of delays in submission, with submission expected ahead of the Intersessional Meetings.
  - In addition, one State Party – Tajikistan - is due to submit an updated work plan by 31 October 2023, and one State Party – Iraq - is due to submit an updated work plan by the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties.
- c. One State Party – Cambodia – which was due to submit an updated work plan by 15 August 2022, wrote to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, c/o the ISU, on 29 August 2022 indicating that the submission of its work plan would be delayed until 28 February 2023 noting that the “request is made based on the momentous results which are anticipated for the remaining six months of 2022, which will drastically change the work plan for the remaining period and will result in the need to submit an additional, revised work plan in the near future.” In this regard, Cambodia submitted an updated work plan on 1 May 2023.
- d. One State Party – Niger – that was due to submit an updated work plan in 2021 in accordance with its previously granted extension request, as of 2 June, has not submitted an updated work plan.
- e. As of 2 June 2023, the following States Parties had not submitted an updated work plan following the decisions of the States Parties in 2023; Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and Mauritania. The Committee would welcome further information on the process and timeline for submission of updated work plans from the States Parties.
19. As highlighted above, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation has continuously availed in its efforts to engage with Eritrea, which is currently in non-compliance with the Convention. The Committee together with the current and former Presidents intensified their combined efforts to urge Eritrea to submit a request for extension of its Article 5 deadline. Eritrea was obliged to submit a request to extend its Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2020. As of 2 June 2022 Eritrea has not submitted a request for an extended deadline.
20. One State Party – Mozambique, which in its Declaration of Completion of its Article 5 obligations in 2015 indicated 9 suspected hazard areas that remain seasonally or permanently submerged under water in Inhambane Province. Mozambique highlighted that all tasks were subjected to technical survey and clearance up to the water line during the annual dry season with no direct evidence found to confirm the presence of mines in any of these areas and committee to marking and regularly monitored these areas to confirm if the area ever dries enough to allow further

technical survey. Mozambique reported that in 2016, five of areas became accessible and that technical survey resulted in their subsequent reduction and cancellation. Mozambique reported in 2018, that the four remaining areas measuring 1,881 square metres remained inaccessible. Mozambique further reported that these mined areas are continuously monitored and will be addressed once the water level recedes and access is gained for their clearance. Mozambique reported in 2019 that four areas measuring 1,881 square metres remain inaccessible. Mozambique reported in 2022 that it had already been declared a mine-free country in 2015, however, is now dealing with residual cases a little throughout the country, with no identified areas, but rather there are occasional isolated cases that sometimes cause some accidents. The Committee observed that Mozambique did not submit updated information in this regard in 2023 and would welcome further information on these areas.

21. Of the 33 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, as of 2 June 2023, **11 have not submitted** Article 7 reports: – Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, the State of Palestine, Somalia, and Sudan.

#### V. Observations of a general nature<sup>i</sup>

22. The Committee welcomes the information submitted by States Parties as well as their engagement with the Committee during bilateral meetings that has allowed a cooperative dialogue to take place between the Committee and the States Parties.
23. The Committee observed that, as of 2 June 2023, the same number of reports (22) were submitted by States Parties with Article 5 obligations compared to the previous year (22). The Committee also observed an increase in the quality of the reports submitted by States Parties. The Committee recalls that submission of an Article 7 reports on an annual basis is an obligation under the Convention.
24. The Committee observed that of the 11 States Parties that have not submitted reports in 2023, the following 5 States Party had not submitted Article 7 Reports for two or more years – Afghanistan (2 years), Eritrea (8 years), Oman (2 years), the State of Palestine (3 years), and Somalia (2 years). The Committee looks forward to continued cooperation with these States Parties to ensure they submit, as soon as possible, an Article 7 Report containing updated information on implementation efforts.
25. In this regard, the Committee recalled Action #49 of the Oslo Action Plan: “Any State Party implementing obligations in particular under Article 4 or 5, or retaining or transferring mines in line with Article 3 that has not submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing these obligations each year will provide in close cooperation with the ISU an annual update on the status of implementation in line with Article 7 and will provide information to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. If no information on implementing the relevant obligations for two consecutive years is provided, the President will assist and engage with the States Parties concerned in close cooperation with the relevant Committee”. The Committee will work with the President in this regard.
26. The Committee noted the obligation for States Parties to submit Article 7 transparency reports by 30 April each calendar year. The Committee further emphasises the importance of the submission of outstanding reports in order to inform the States Parties of progress in implementation and to allow the Committee to develop its conclusions.

27. The Committee observed that 6 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Iraq, Nigeria, Türkiye, and Yemen - reported to be the affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and reported to ensure that they apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination as they do for all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregate by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations. The Committee noted the importance of States Parties continuing to report updated information on contamination in areas under their jurisdiction or control and will continue to work with affected States Parties in this regard. The Committee encourages States Parties that face challenges with armed non-state actors to clarify the situation in terms of the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature by these actors (Action #21).
28. In addition to anti-personnel mines, a number of States Parties face challenges associated with other explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance. In these States Parties, efforts to implement Article 5 are part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards. The Committee observes that, this being the case, it is important that States Parties continue to disaggregate information on their contamination in order to ensure clarity concerning the remaining challenge under Article 5. Nonetheless, the Committee recognizes that the impact of a particular type of contamination on the population needs to be considered in prioritization efforts. The Committee also reiterates the important of States Parties disaggregating their contamination by type of explosive ordnance to provide clarity.
29. The Committee observed that the information provided by 17 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous reporting.
30. The Committee observed that the information provided by 16 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - included disaggregated information remaining challenge in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (Action #22)
31. The Committee observes that, in a number of cases, progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States implementing Article 5 obligations used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS (i.e. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”; disaggregating data by activity that is non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance; reporting progress according to the result of each activity where land is cancelled, reduced or cleared). The Committee reiterates the importance of States providing information in this manner in order to have a clear understanding of the status of implementation efforts. The Committee will continue its bilateral engagement with concerned States Parties to further encourage the proper use of this terminology.
32. The Committee observed that the information provided by 20 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – employed the Guide to Reporting (fully or partially) which supported their efforts to provide clarity concerning their remaining challenge and progress made. The Committee continues to encourage States Parties with Article 5 obligations to employ the Guide to Reporting, which could be of considerable assistance in providing clarity concerning progress and status in implementing Article 5 obligations, and progress in implementation of commitments included in the Oslo Action Plan (Action #8).

33. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on the integration of Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans. (Action #1). The Committee observed that 17 States Parties – Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation. (Action #1) The Committee encourages States Parties to maintain interest at a high level in fulfilling Convention obligations to ensure that mine action continues to play its important role in support to mine affected communities.
34. The Committee observed that 20 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on their efforts to develop evidence based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans to fulfil and implement Convention obligations as soon as possible (Action #2).
35. The Committee observed that 20 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported having developed evidence-based and in many cases, costed national work plans, including projections of the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually (Action #19).
36. The Committee observed that 15 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe reported having updated national mine action standards in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee recognized the importance of States Parties ensuring that National Mine Action Standards are in line with best practice and implemented to ensure the efficient and effective implementation (Action #5).
37. The Committee observed that 12 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Serbia, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported having a national sustainable information management system in place (Action #9).
38. The Committee observed that 17 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported on their 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. The Committee recalled the importance of States Parties, “making use of the full range of emerging practical methods to more rapidly release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines”<sup>2</sup> and further recalled the importance of the importance of research and innovative technology to support the more efficient implementation of Article 5 (Action #27).
39. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties – Cambodia, Colombia, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported adjusted milestones to their national work plans based on new evidence. The Committee noted the importance of States Parties annually updating their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports, including the number of areas

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<sup>2</sup> APLC/MSP.12/2012/4 Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process.



and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established (Action #20).

40. The Committee observed that Ukraine who submitted an extension request for consideration by the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, submitted its request in a timely manner. The Committee observed that the request submitted by Ukraine did not contain a detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for the extension period developed through an inclusive process, in line with the decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties<sup>3</sup> and the recommendations endorsed by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties in the paper “Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process”<sup>4</sup>.
41. The Committee observed that Ukraine submitted an extension request for consideration by the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties did not contain a detailed, costed and multiyear plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities. The Committee continues its collaboration with requesting States Parties to seek additional information concerning its implementation efforts.
42. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties – Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on their efforts to build a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion that may be discovered following completion of their Article 5 obligations. The Committee observed that 4 States Parties – Colombia, Thailand, Türkiye, and Zimbabwe - reported having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas (Action #26). The Committee noted the importance of States Parties ensuring that provisions for a national capacity are integrated into national strategies and work plans for completion as early as possible in the life of the mine action programme to ensure that a *tried and tested* capacity is in place well ahead of completion.
43. The Committee also observed that a 2 States Parties - Algeria and Nicaragua - which have completed implementation of their Article 5 obligations, reported addressing residual contamination during the reporting period. The Committee further observed that Lithuania reported on national efforts to reduce contamination by explosive remnants of war. The Committee welcomes States Parties reporting on addressing residual contamination.
44. Acknowledging the valuable contribution of the Convention’s Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the Committee notes that States Parties requiring assistance are invited to engage directly with the ISU in order to benefit from its advice and support in matters concerning the implementation of Article 5.

## **VI. Mine Risk Education and Reduction**

44. The Committee observed that 20 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on the actions they have taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines through the implementation of mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in their Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).

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<sup>3</sup> APLC/MSP.12/2012/4

<sup>4</sup> APLC/MSP.17/2018/10

45. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe were integrated with wider humanitarian, development, protection, and education efforts. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe reported Mine Risk Education programmes being integrated into ongoing survey and clearance activities and based on this integrated approach were prioritised based on the risk posed to communities (Action #28).
46. The Committee recalled that while the integration of MRE/R into education was established practice, it took diverse forms and more detailed reporting could assist with the development of best practices.
47. The Committee observed that 12 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place (Action #28).
48. The Committee observed that 11 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on their efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking these programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty data (Action #30).
49. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Nigeria, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on their efforts to build a national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes (Action #31).

## **VII. Gender and the diverse needs of affected communities**

50. The Committee observed that 10 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation. The Committee would welcome further information on the specific steps and efforts taken by the States Parties to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform their efforts to implement their mine action programmes (Action #3).
51. The Committee observed that 9 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee encourages States Parties to increase their reporting on this action (Action #18).
52. The Committee noted the commitment of States Parties to provide context-specific mine risk education / reduction programmes that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. In this regard, the Committee welcomed information from 9 States Parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, South Sudan, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe — reporting to carry out MRE/R activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs (Action #29).

**Table 1: Information on progress in implementation of Article 5 of the Convention as reported in 2022 - Article 7 Transparency Reports (submitted up to 2 June 2023)<sup>2</sup>**

|    |                                      | Reported Progress made      |                           |                           |                                      | Reported Remaining Challenge |  |                 |  |   |   |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|---|---|
|    |                                      | Cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Reduced (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Cleared (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Total (m <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>5</sup> | Number of SHAs               | Suspected Hazardous Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Number of CHAs  | Confirmed Hazardous Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Total number of mined areas to be addressed | Total area to be addressed (m <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>6</sup> |
| 1  | Afghanistan                          |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 2  | Angola                               | 3 140 527                   | 4 728 207                 | 5 878 190                 | 13 746 924                           | 72                           | 2 647 558                                  | 998             | 65 363 982                                 | 1 070                                       | 68 011 540  |
| 3  | Argentina                            |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 4  | Bosnia and Herzegovina               |                             | 3 610 000                 | 49 130 000                | 52 740 000                           | 6,597                        | 851 443 442                                | 690             | 18 166 578                                 | 7 287                                       | 869 610 020   |
| 5  | Cambodia <sup>7</sup>                | 32 276 782                  | 70 789 659                | 88 475 191                | 191 541 632                          | 7,392                        | 681 284 511                                |                 |  | 7 392                                       | 681 284 511   |
| 6  | Chad                                 | 872                         |                           | 42 700 291                | 42 701 163                           | 48                           | 21 678 562                                 | 72              | 77 014 433                                 | 120   | 133 709 428   |
| 7  | Colombia                             | 122 062                     | 243 522                   | 962 151                   | 1 327 735                            | 312                          | 1 855 679.64                               | 261             | 1 945 749                                  | 573   | 3 801 429   |
| 8  | Croatia                              | 15 037 444                  |                           | 40 669 514                | 55 706 958 <sup>8</sup>              |                              | 50 295 872                                 |                 | 119 189 044                                |   | 169 484 916 <sup>9</sup>                                  |
| 9  | Cyprus                               |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 10 | The Democratic Republic of the Congo |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 11 | Ecuador                              |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 12 | Eritrea                              |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 13 | Ethiopia                             |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 14 | Guinea-Bissau                        |                             |                           |                           |                                      | 43 <sup>10</sup>             |  | 9               | 1 093 840                                  | 52  | 1 093 840   |
| 15 | Iraq <sup>11</sup>                   | 36 015 022                  | 24 078 679                | 12 141 110                | 72 234 811                           | 583                          | 185 598 763                                | 4 934           | 1 533 288 672                              | 5 517 <sup>12</sup>                         | 1 718 887 435   |
| 16 | Mauritania                           |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 17 | Niger                                |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 18 | Nigeria                              |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  | 13  |   |
| 19 | Oman                                 |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 20 | State of Palestine                   |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 21 | Peru                                 |                             |                           | 17 305                    | 17 305                               |                              |  | 87              | 340 829                                    | 87 <sup>14</sup>                            | 340 829   |
| 22 | Senegal                              | 301 822                     |                           | 78 794                    | 380 616                              | 11 <sup>15</sup>             |  | 21              | 208 091                                    | 32  | 208 091   |
| 23 | Serbia                               |                             |                           | 171 500                   | 171 500                              | 1                            | 390 300                                    |                 |  | 1   | 390 300   |
| 24 | Somalia                              |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 25 | South Sudan                          | 1 998 813                   |                           | 279 090                   | 2 277 903                            | 47                           | 2 363 059                                  | 65              | 3 052 578                                  | 112   | 5 415 637   |
| 26 | Sri Lanka                            | 59 411 919                  | 1 095 102 714             | 157 597 494               | 1 312 112 127 <sup>16</sup>          | 87                           | 1 917 538                                  | 534             | 13 521 355                                 | 621   | 15 438 893  |
| 27 | Sudan                                |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 28 | Tajikistan                           |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 29 | Thailand                             | 4 616 955                   | 5 444 082                 | 330 866                   | 10 391 903                           | 82                           | 11 560 616                                 | 59              | 18 137 899                                 | 141   | 29 698 515  |
| 30 | Türkiye                              | 5 089 384                   | 816 042                   | 1 290 705                 | 7 196 131                            |                              |  |                 |  | 3 701                                       | 133 390 758   |
| 31 | Ukraine                              |                             |                           |                           |                                      |                              |  |                 |  |   |   |
| 32 | Yemen                                |                             | 757 843                   | 1 079 799                 | 1 837 642                            | 79                           | 18 279 368                                 | 160             | 33 689 112                                 | 239   | 51 968 480  |
| 33 | Zimbabwe                             | 2 132 501                   | 2 065 148                 | 1 917 880                 | 6 115 529                            |                              |  | 6 <sup>17</sup> | 18 302 728                                 | 6   | 18 302 728  |

<sup>5</sup> The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on areas released in a disaggregated manner.

<sup>6</sup> The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on the remaining challenge in a disaggregated manner.

<sup>7</sup> Cambodia reported for the period progress in implementation for the period 1 January 2022 – March 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Croatia reported a total area cleared including 488,200 square metres under the authority of the Ministry of Defence.

<sup>9</sup> Croatia reported a remaining challenge located in 28 municipalities, including 19.8 square kilometres under the authority of the Ministry of Defence.

<sup>10</sup> Guinea-Bissau reported a remaining challenge including 43 suspected hazardous areas of unknown size.

<sup>11</sup> The figures for Iraq including aggregated data on progress in implementation for mined areas under the authority of the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA).

<sup>12</sup> The figures for Iraq including aggregated data on Iraq's remaining challenge including mined areas under the authority of the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA).

<sup>13</sup> Nigeria reported a remaining challenge including mined areas in four States; Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, and Imo.

<sup>14</sup> Peru reported a remaining challenge comprising 87 'objectives'.

<sup>15</sup> Senegal reported 11 suspected hazardous areas of unknown size.

<sup>16</sup> Sri Lanka reported for the period 2002 – 31 December 2022.

<sup>17</sup> Zimbabwe reported a remaining challenge comprising 6 confirmed hazardous areas including 113 'sectors'.

**Table 2: Information provided by States on implementation on relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan (2023)**

| No. | State Party                  | Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2023 | Level of clarity on the remaining implementation challenge (Action #18) | Relevant Action of the Oslo Action Plan – Mine Clearance |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----|------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|     |                              |   |   | 1  | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 1   | Afghanistan                  |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 2   | Angola                       | X   | Some clarity  | √  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |   | √  | √  |    |    | √  | √  | √  |    |    | √  |
| 3   | Argentina                    | X   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 4   | Bosnia and Herzegovina       | X   | Some clarity  | √  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  |    | √  | √  |    | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 5   | Cambodia                     | X   | Some clarity  | √  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  |    |    | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 6   | Chad                         | X   | Some clarity  |  | √ |   |   |   | √ |   | √  | √  |    |    | √  |    |    |    |    | √  |
| 7   | Colombia                     | X   | Clarity   | √  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 8   | Croatia                      | X   | Clarity   | √  | √ |   | √ | √ | √ |   | √  | √  |    |    | √  |    | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 9   | Cyprus                       | X   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 10  | Democratic Republic of Congo |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 11  | Ecuador                      |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 12  | Eritrea                      |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 13  | Ethiopia                     |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 14  | Guinea Bissau                | X   | Some clarity  | √  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  | √  |    | √  | √  | √  |    |    | √  |
| 15  | Iraq                         | X   | High degree of clarity  | √  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  |    | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 16  | Mauritania                   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 17  | Niger                        |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 18  | Nigeria                      | X   | Some clarity  | √  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  | √  |    |    | √  | √  | √  |    | √  |
| 19  | Oman                         |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 20  | Palestine, State of          |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 21  | Peru                         | X   | High degree of clarity  |  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  | √  |    | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 22  | Senegal                      | X   | Some clarity  |  | √ |   |   |   | √ |   |    |    | √  |    | √  |    |    |    |    | √  |
| 23  | Serbia                       | X   | Some clarity  | √  | √ |   | √ |   | √ | √ | √  | √  | √  |    | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 24  | Somalia                      |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 25  | South Sudan                  | X   | High degree of clarity  |  | √ |   |   |   | √ |   | √  | √  | √  |    | √  |    | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 26  | Sri Lanka                    | X   | Clarity   |  | √ |   |   |   | √ |   | √  | √  |    |    | √  |    | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 27  | Sudan                        |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 28  | Tajikistan                   | X   | High degree of clarity  | √  | √ |   | √ | √ | √ |   | √  | √  | √  |    | √  |    | √  |    |    | √  |
| 29  | Thailand                     | X   | High degree of clarity  | √  | √ |   | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  | √  |    | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 30  | Türkiye                      | X   | Some clarity  | √  | √ |   | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  | √  | √  |    | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 31  | Ukraine                      | X   | Some clarity  |  | √ |   |   |   | √ |   |    |    |    |    |    | √  |    |    |    | √  |
| 32  | Yemen                        | X   | Some clarity  | √  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  |
| 33  | Zimbabwe                     | X   | High degree of clarity  | √  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  | √  |

<sup>1</sup> Source: Information as provided by States Parties in their Article 7 reports submitted until 2 June 2023, unless otherwise stated. Article 7.2: The information provided in accordance with this Article shall be updated by the States Parties annually, covering the last calendar year, and reported to the Secretary General of the United Nations not later than 30 April of each year”. Accordingly, in order to accommodate States Parties, Article 7 Transparency reports were accepted by the Committee for the benefit of transmitting its general observations until 2 June 2023. Information submitted by States Parties after 2 June 2023 will be considered in the conclusions of the Committee submitted to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP).

<sup>2</sup> Source: In order to monitor progress in implementing the Oslo Action Plan information submitted in the States Parties’ annual Article 7 reports serve as the main source of data for Table 1 and Table 2 unless otherwise stated.