

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

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

Intersessional Meetings 19 – 21 June 2023

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY GUINEA - BISSAU

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

1. Guinea-Bissau reported that in 2022 it implemented the following activities, i) development of an information management system, ii) development of national standards in line with IMAS, iii) preparation of the non-technical survey, iv) preparation for technical activities, (technical survey, marking, and clearance), v) resuming risk education activities, vi) fundraising for the period 2022-2024.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Guinea-Bissau on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided in its 2022 extension request. The Committee welcomed Guinea-Bissau providing information on progress by employing the guide to reporting (Action #8).
3. The Committee encourages Guinea-Bissau to report on the number and types of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war addressed in a disaggregated manner and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #22).

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

4. The Committee that Guinea-Bissau provided some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Guinea-Bissau reported a remaining challenge of 52 mined areas, including 9 confirmed mined areas measuring 1,093,840 square metres located in 5 Regions, and 43 suspected hazardous areas of unknown size located in 6 Regions (Action #22).
5. The Committee welcomes Guinea-Bissau reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas (Action #22).
6. 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 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 that Guinea-Bissau had reported the results of assessments of mined areas and that these assessments form part of Guinea-Bissau's efforts to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, in an effort to establish an evidence-based, accurate baseline of contamination. The

¹ "Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, province, and district within the State.

Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information on these efforts.

7. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to establish their baseline through inclusive consultations, and that National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI) will promote at all stages of its programme gender and diversity inclusion. The Committee would welcome further information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard (Action #18).

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

8. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau in its 2022 extension request submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, (20MSP) indicated having a national mine action plan in place for the period 2022-2024, including projected completion of national non-technical survey and re-survey of confirmed hazardous areas (Action #2, Action #19).
9. Action #20 of the OAP requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidenced and report on adjusted milestones. The Committee observed that while Guinea-Bissau had in place a work plan, Guinea-Bissau was not in a position to report annual adjusted milestones and on how priorities have been established. The Committee also observed that Guinea-Bissau reported that the following activities are projected to take place in the period 2022/2023 subject to funding: i) implementation of the non-technical survey at national level, ii) implementation of emergency spot task clearance and marking, and iii) implementation of risk education activities. Guinea-Bissau further reported that non-technical survey teams are expected to be deployed to an estimated 1,500 populated locations and the finalization of the national survey within one year, in 2023.
10. Guinea-Bissau reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation and that the CAAMI will undertake significant efforts to increase the Government's contribution to the fulfilment of the Article 5 obligations and to attract external financing in support of its program (Action #1).
11. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, and that CAAMI will promote the integration of Mine Action issues within other development and humanitarian plans, as recommended in the OAP.. The Committee encourages Guinea-Bissau to provide further information on its efforts in this regard (Action #1, Action #6).
12. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, by promoting, at all stages of its programme, gender and diversity inclusion. The Committee would welcome further information from Guinea-Bissau in this regard (Action #3).
13. Guinea-Bissau reported that CAAMI will seek to build its capacity and those of its national partners and that such trainings could be dispensed by international organizations and commercial companies, depending on the topic, availability, or cost of the training. Guinea-Bissau also reported on projected activities to develop a national strategy to manage residual risk and strengthen its national capacity. The Committee would welcome further information on Guinea-Bissau's efforts in this regard, including a timeline and milestones for related activities (Action #26).

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

14. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date and reported that a focal point will be named and a working group established to follow the development and review of the standards by a panel of national and international actors. The Committee recalled that Guinea-Bissau in its 2022 extension request indicated that the development of national standards in line with IMAS to be fulfilled by the end of the current Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2022 and would welcome further information on the timeline for the development and approval of the updated national standards (Action #5).
15. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national information management system and that the development of the new information management system will require the support of an information management international specialist, coordination with relevant stakeholders, supply with acquiring IT equipment (e.g., hardware, software, and internet) and that it is expected that the development of a fully functional system covering all components of the Mine Action programme could take an initial 6 months. The Committee noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau continuing to report on the design and implementation of its information management system and ensure that it is nationally owned, sustainable and takes into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion (Action #9).
16. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to take appropriate steps to improve effectiveness and efficiency, including in the implementation of its national survey, in line with IMAS 08.10. The Committee would welcome further information of Guinea-Bissau's efforts in this regard (Action #27).

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

17. In considering Guinea-Bissau's 2022 extension request, the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) requested Guinea-Bissau to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Guinea-Bissau on:
 - Information on progress in building the capacity of CAAMI, including the establishment of an information management system, the development of national mine action standards in accordance with IMAS, and preparations for survey and clearance activities;
 - Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
 - Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Guinea-Bissau to support implementation efforts; and
 - Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities.
18. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on the following decisions of the 20MSP:
 - Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Guinea-Bissau's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance);

- Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of mined areas and amount of area to be addressed manually and how priorities have been established;
- The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Guinea-Bissau's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;
- The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes.

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

19. Action #32 of the OAP requests States to report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee recalled that Guinea-Bissau reported that at present Mine Risk Education activities are not active in Guinea-Bissau and that Guinea-Bissau aims to resume risk education programme in 2023. The Committee reiterated the importance of Guinea-Bissau having in place a capacity to deliver MRE/R programmes to ensure that, "mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The Committee observed the importance of Guinea-Bissau to report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age.
22. Action #28 of the OAP requests States to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #28 and would welcome further information in this regard.
23. Action #29 of the 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 that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #29 and would welcome further information in this regard.
24. 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 Guinea-Bissau had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #30 and would welcome further information in this regard.
25. Action #31 of the OAP requests States to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #31 and would welcome further information in this regard.

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

26. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including the need for financial resources, international specialists and that the implementation of the Mine Action programme in 2023 is based on the assumption that partnerships are established, that all the preparatory activities planned in 2022 are funded and achieved, and that there is also funding for the planned activities in 2023.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Guinea - Bissau
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#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						Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, by promoting, at all stages of its programme, gender and diversity inclusion. The Committee would welcome further information from Guinea-Bissau in this regard
	# 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 28 July)
#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)						The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to establish their baseline through inclusive consultations, and that National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAM) will promote at all stages of its programme gender and diversity inclusion. The Committee would welcome further information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard
#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						The Committee would welcome information on Guinea-Bissau's efforts to provide 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						Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to take appropriate steps to improve effectiveness and efficiency, including in the implementation of its national survey, in line with IMAS 08.10. The Committee would welcome further information of Guinea-Bissau's efforts in this regard

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						The Committee would welcome information on Guinea – Bissau's efforts to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts.
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						The Committee would welcome information on Guinea – Bissau's efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk.
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						The Committee would welcome information on Guinea – Bissau's efforts to ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes				The Committee would welcome information on Guinea-Bissau's efforts 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.
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered				The Committee would welcome information on Guinea-Bissau's efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered.
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results				

