

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 SOUTH SUDAN

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

1. South Sudan reported that in 2022 it addressed 4 mined areas measuring 2,277,903 square metres, including 1,998,813 square metres cancelled and 279,090 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 127 anti-personnel mines and 250 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. South Sudan also reported 5 newly identified confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) in 3 States measuring 119,133 square metres, including 13,927 in Central Equatoria, 56,847 square metres in Eastern Equatoria, and 48,359 square metres in Upper Nile.
3. The Committee recalled that South Sudan, in its updated work plan submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP), indicated 19 hazardous areas measuring 1,434,367 square meters in the area of Canal and Khor Fulus are currently blocked. The Committee also recalled that South Sudan had indicated, per current estimates, that 6 mined areas measuring 998,620 square metres were under water since early 2020 and that South Sudan will continue to mark where possible all confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) and suspected hazardous areas (SHA) in this location, that it has a monitoring system to identify any shift in water level, and that any accessible areas will be addressed through land release. South Sudan further indicated that it would continue to deliver Mine Risk Education (MRE) to populations living and working around these mined areas. The Committee would welcome further updates on the monitoring and response to these flooded areas.
3. The Committee observed that information provided by South Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2022 updated work plan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was more than that projected in South Sudan's 2022 updated work plan. The Committee welcomed South Sudan providing information on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and disaggregated by type of contamination (Action #8, Action #22).

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

4. The Committee observed that South Sudan reported a high degree of clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). South Sudan reported a remaining challenge of 112 mined areas

¹ "High degree of clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas (known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "known" or "suspected"), and information on the geographic location of each area.

measuring 5,415,637 square metres located in 8 States, including, 65 CHAs measuring 3,052,578 square metres and 47 SHAs measuring 2,363,059 square metres (Action #22).

5. The Committee welcomed South Sudan reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHA and CHAs and their relative size, and type of contamination (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 observed that South Sudan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from South Sudan on these efforts.
7. The Committee recalled that South Sudan in its 2022 updated workplan included an update on its efforts to establish its baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men, including the re-structure of survey and report forms to strengthen gender representation and to enhance the consulting of women, girls and boys during surveys and consultation on the baseline. The Committee would welcome further information from South Sudan in this regard (Action #18).

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

8. The Committee recalled that South Sudan's extension request in 2022 updated work plan included a national evidence based and costed plan for survey and clearance in place (Action #2, Action #19). South Sudan has a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period of 2019-2023 (Action #2).
9. South Sudan reported adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including information on the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually for the period 2023-2026, including; 35 mined areas measuring 2,730,000 square metres with 1,680,000 square metres to be addressed by manual mine clearance and 1,050,000 square meters to be addressed by mechanical mine clearance in 2023, 22 mined areas measuring 1,650,000 square metres with 600,000 square metres to be addressed by manual mine clearance and 1,050,000 square metres to be addressed by mechanical mine clearance in 2024, with 22 mined areas measuring an estimated 295,892 square metres by mechanical mine clearance in 2024. (Action #20).
10. Action #1 of the OAP requests States to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities as appropriate, and by making financial and other commitments to implementation. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report on its efforts in implementation of Action #1 and would welcome further information in this regard.
11. Action #6 of the OAP requests States to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between the mine action community and relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, development and human rights communities, bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report on its efforts in implementation of Action #6 and would welcome further information in this regard.
12. Action #3 of the OAP requests States to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes, in order to deliver an inclusive approach. Strive to remove barriers to full, equal

and gender balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report on its efforts in implementation of Action #3 and would welcome further information in this regard.

13. Action #26 of the OAP requests States to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report on its efforts in implementation of Action #26 and would welcome further information in this regard.

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

14. Action #5 of the OAP requests States to keep national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS, adapt them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #5 and would welcome further information in this regard.

15. Action #9 of the OAP requests States to establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. The design and implementation of information management systems will ensure that they are nationally owned, sustainable and take into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #9 and would welcome further information in this regard.

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

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

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

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

information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

18. The Committee would welcome updated information from South Sudan on the following decisions of the 18MSP:

- Progress on security-related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
- Efforts made to reconfigure personnel to form larger teams and the results of these efforts;
- Updates regarding the structure of South Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion, and:
- Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of South Sudan to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to strengthen the capacity of the National Mine Action Authority and facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities.

19. The Committee recalled that in considering South Sudan's 2020 extension request, the 18MSP requested South Sudan to submit to the States Parties periodic updated detailed work plans with the first of these being submitted by 30 April 2022, and the second by 30 April 2024, for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee observed that South Sudan had acted on the decisions of the 18MSP by submitting an updated work plan in 2022.

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

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

21. South Sudan reported that MRE/R is fully integrated into wider humanitarian activities, including the Protection Cluster, the humanitarian response plan and the South Sudan development strategy and that the Ministry of Education has integrated MRE into primary schools, the Committee observed that South Sudan 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 (Action #28).

22. South Sudan reported on its efforts to conduct MRE that is sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs of at-risk communities into account including community liaison teams staffed by both women and men. South Sudan also reported that its efforts in implementation of risk education efforts includes a pre and post evaluation assessments. (Action #29).

23. South Sudan reported that MRE/R activities are planned taking into account the information collected from the pre and post evaluations assessments and an analysis of casualty data which responds to at-risk groups, including boys and internally displaced-persons (Action #30).

24. South Sudan reported that UNICEF continued to integrate MRE within UNICEF child protection program that is implemented by National NGOs, and that MRE is still being carried out in schools

by mine action partners that have initiated peer-to-peer outreach of MRE to the community at risk(Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

25.The Committee observed that South Sudan provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including the impact of newly identified mined areas, the need for continued security and funding to support clearance towards its 2026 Article 5 mine clearance deadline.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
South Sudan
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 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						The Committee would welcome information on South Sudan's efforts to include 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						The Committee would welcome information on South Sudan's efforts to 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						The Committee would welcome information on South Sudan's efforts to 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						The Committee would welcome information on South Sudan's efforts to update 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						The Committee would welcome information on South Sudan's efforts to 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						The Committee would welcome information on South Sudan's efforts to report having a sustainable national information management system in place.
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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 South Sudan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from South Sudan on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						The Committee would welcome information on South Sudan's efforts to establish 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						The Committee would welcome information on South Sudan's efforts to report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas.
	% 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 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 South Sudan's efforts to 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						
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