

## 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 SRI LANKA

##### I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #21, #22)

1. Sri Lanka reported for the period 2002 to 31 December 2022 having released 5,152 mined areas measuring 1,312,112,127 square metres, including 59,411,919 square metres cancelled, 1,095,102,714 square metres reduced and 157,597,494 square metres cleared, in the process destroying 878,786 anti-personnel mines, 2,192 anti-tank mines, and 1,560,102 items of explosive ordnance.
2. The Committee recalled that Sri Lanka in its initial Article 7 report reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and noted Sri Lanka's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination. The Committee observed that Sri Lanka had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report on its efforts in implementation of Action #21 and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #21).
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Sri Lanka on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee welcomed Sri Lanka using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by type of contamination (Action #8).

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

4. The Committee observed that Sri Lanka provided clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Sri Lanka reported a remaining challenge of 621 hazardous areas measuring 15,438,893 square metres located in 9 districts of 3 Provinces, including 534 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) measuring 13,521,355 square metres and 87 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) measuring 1,917,538 square metres (Action #22).
5. The Committee welcomed Sri Lanka reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHAs and CHAs and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination identified (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

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<sup>1</sup> "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 and districts including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel and the size of the areas.

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 Sri Lanka reported that non-technical survey (NTS) has been carried out jointly between the Sri Lankan Army and de-mining operators to identify the previously unknown mine and other contaminated areas to facilitate a new mine action strategy tasking for clearance. As a result, Sri Lanka reported a total of 534 tasks that were identified as contaminated with anti-personnel mines, measuring 13,521,355 square meters and 87 tasks that are suspected to be contaminated with anti-personnel mines measuring a total of 1,917,538 square meters. The Committee observed that that this survey forms part of Sri Lanka'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 Committee observed that Sri Lanka was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on these efforts (Action #18).

7. Action #18 of the OAP requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee observed that Sri Lanka had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report on its efforts in implementation of Action #18 and would welcome further information 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 Sri Lanka has a national evidence based and costed plan for survey and clearance in place for the period 2016-2020 (Action #2, Action #19). The Committee observed that Sri Lanka had in place a completion process to comply with article 5 obligations and would welcome further information on the process (Action #2).
9. Action #20 of the OAP requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established. The Committee observed that while Sri Lanka reported that the priority activity under the Completion process is conducting non-technical survey of 'previously unknown' contamination as accurately as possible, Sri Lanka had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #20 and would welcome further information in this regard.
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, while Sri Lanka reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including Rs 2 million for risk education initiatives in mine-affected areas, Sri Lanka had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #1, particularly the integration of Convention implementation activities, 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 Sri Lanka had not provided 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 and to strive to remove barriers to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings. The Committee observed that Sri Lanka had not provided 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 Sri Lanka had not provided 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 (NMAS) 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 Sri Lanka had not provided 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 with the design and implementation ensuring 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 Sri Lanka had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #9 and would welcome further information in this regard.
16. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including sharing expertise and experiences with other governments, military bodies, and international partners (Action #27).

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

17. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, including through the prominent display of warning signs in Sinhala, Tamil and English. Sri Lanka also reported on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved. The Committee observed that Sri Lanka had not reported results, with information disaggregated by gender and age, and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #32).
18. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education (MRE) activities with wider efforts, including the coordination of risk education at national and district levels through the national education system regional mine action office (RMAO) and village level Mine Action Committees, the Sri Lanka Army Humanitarian Demining Unit (HDU), and the Ministry of Education. Sri Lanka also reported that MRE has been integrated into demining operators that organise risk education in their area of reference, including with school children, teachers, parents (Action #28).
19. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to provide context specific MRR programmes, including to district Secretariat and other government employees, forest officers, construction workers, school children, and police officers in Northern Province (Action #29).

20. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to prioritise people at risk, including children born after 2009, refugees and other returnees, scrap metal collectors, and those population groups collecting firewood. Sri Lanka also reported that risk education teams observe gender norms, diversity in allocated areas and prepare a syllabus according to each affected district (Action #30).
21. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to build a national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes (Action #31).

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

22. The Committee observed that Sri Lanka reported on challenges in implementing the Convention, including reduction of risk education as a result of the depletion of finances to the local and international EORE organisations for MRE activities.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Sri Lanka**  
**BEST PRACTICES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION**

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 Sri Lanka's efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans.
	% 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						The Committee would welcome information from Sri Lanka on its 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 from Sri Lanka on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date.
#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 Sri Lanka's efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and 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 Sri Lanka's efforts to 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 would welcome information on Sri Lanka's efforts to have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP).
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						The Committee would welcome information on Sri Lanka's efforts to report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men.
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						The Committee would welcome information on Sri Lanka's efforts to 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)						The Committee would welcome information on Sri Lanka's efforts to apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report).
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						The Committee would welcome information on Sri Lanka's efforts to report 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 Sri Lanka's efforts to include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans.
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas						
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties						
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means						

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 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						
#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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