

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 TAJIKISTAN

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

1. Tajikistan reported that in 2022 it addressed 13 mined areas measuring 1,126,731 square metres, including 236,279 square metres cancelled, 310,480 square metres reduced and 579,972 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 1,197 anti-personnel mines, and 826 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. Tajikistan also reported that 10 mined areas measuring 617,971 square metres were re-surveyed and 2 minefields measuring 75,000 square metres released.
3. Tajikistan further reported that 3 previously unknown mined areas were identified with no given size, and an additional 2 suspected mined areas measuring 700,000 square metres and 9 battle areas measuring 2,666,074 square metres were identified and registered.
4. The Committee observed that the information provided by Tajikistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2021 updated workplan. The Committee also observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Tajikistan's 2021 updated workplan. The Committee welcomed Tajikistan providing information in accordance with 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. In this regard, the Committee encourages Tajikistan to report in a manner consistent with IMAS and in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance) (Action #8, Action #22).

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

5. The Committee observed that Tajikistan had provided a high degree of clarity¹ on its remaining challenge (Action #18). Tajikistan reported a total of 208 mined areas measuring 11,451,658 square metres remaining to be addressed, including 130 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 6,946,658 square metres and 78 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 4,505,000 square metres. Tajikistan indicated that 54 of the remaining 78 SHA are located on the Tajik-Uzbek border measuring 3,250,000 square metres (Action #22).

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

6. The Committee welcomed Tajikistan reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHAs and CHAs and their relative size, and type of contamination (Action #22).
7. 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. The Committee observed that Tajikistan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and welcomes updated information from Tajikistan's on these efforts.
8. 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 Tajikistan 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.

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

9. The Committee observed that Tajikistan has in place an evidence-based, costed, and time-bound national strategy for the period 2021-2030, including an updated work plan for the period of 2021-2025 and an annual detailed and costed work plan for the period 2022-2023 (Action #2, #19).
10. Tajikistan reported annual adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually, 34 mined areas in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous and Central Region measuring 1,641,219 square metres in 2023, and 45 mined areas measuring 3,181,400 square metres in 2024 (Action #20).
11. Tajikistan reported that Convention implementation activities were integrated within relevant ministries and departments through national mine action platforms, monthly coordination technical meetings, and the Government commission on the implementation of Tajikistan's annual work plan (Action #1, Action #6).
12. Tajikistan reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of US \$56,400 to support humanitarian mine action and US \$480,000 in the form of in-kind assistance to facilitate the implementation of Tajikistan's obligations under the Convention (Action #1).
13. 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 Tajikistan 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.
14. 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 Tajikistan 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)

15. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to keep National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS, including new NMAS on the environment as well as risk assessment and all reasonable effort (Action #5).

16. 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 Tajikistan 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.

17. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including daily testing and evaluation techniques and the use of a form for assessing and recording the quality control and assurance of metal detectors (Action #27).

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

18. In considering Tajikistan's request, the Fourth Review Conference (4RC) requested Tajikistan to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Tajikistan on:

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Tajikistan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared and their impact on annual targets as given in Tajikistan's work plan;
- Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available from Tajikistan's state budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts;
- Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;

19. The Committee would welcome further information from Tajikistan regarding;

- Progress on the agreement between the Governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan regarding survey and clearance of areas on their common border, including information on the national institutions involved in the effort;
- Updates regarding the identification, recruitment, training and deployment of an additional 90 deminers and support personnel, including information on the gender and diversity of newly recruited personnel in line with Tajikistan's "Gender and Diversity Mine Action Strategy";
- Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land; including reporting outcomes concerning the feasibility and deployment of mechanical assets; and
- Updates regarding the structure of Tajikistan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

21. The Committee recalled that in considering Tajikistan's 2019 extension request, the 4RC requested Tajikistan submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2021 and by 31 October 2023, updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget. The Committee observed that Tajikistan had acted on the decisions of the 4RC by submitting an updated work plan to the 19MSP and had indicated its intention to submit an updated work plan to the 21MSP.

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

20. Tajikistan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee observed that while Tajikistan reported that warning signs in the language of the local population are installed in hazard areas and that community liaison activities are carried out, Tajikistan had not reported on the methodologies used, the challenges faced, with results disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #32).

21. Action #28 of the OAP requests States to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey and clearance activities. The Committee observed that Tajikistan had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #28 and would welcome further information in this regard.

22. 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 and to ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment and 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 Tajikistan had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #29 and would welcome further information in this regard.

23. 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 Tajikistan had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #30 and would welcome further information in this regard.

24. 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 Tajikistan had not provided 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)

25. The Committee observed that Tajikistan provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including the impact of inaccessibility to mined areas hard to reach mountainous areas, climatic conditions and the need for additional funding and equipment to improve the capacity and methodologies of demining teams.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Tajikistan
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						The Committee would welcome information on Tajikistan's efforts to report how its national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#5	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						

#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						The Committee would welcome information on Tajikistan'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 Tajikistan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and welcomes updated information from Tajikistan's 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 Tajikistan's efforts on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men.
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						

	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties							
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities							
#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion							
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans							The Committee would welcome information on Tajikistan's efforts to report on the inclusion of 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							The Committee would welcome information on Tajikistan's efforts having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant.
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place							The Committee would welcome information on Tajikistan's efforts 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							The Committee would welcome information on Tajikistan's efforts 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			■		The Committee would welcome information on Tajikistan's efforts 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		■	■		The Committee would welcome information on Tajikistan's efforts to 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	■	■	■	■	

