

## 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 YEMEN

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

1. Yemen reported that in 2022 it addressed 37 mined areas measuring 1,832,642 square metres, including 757,843 square metres reduced and 1,079,799 square metres cleared, resulting in the destruction of 23 anti-personnel mines and 509 items of other explosive items.
2. Yemen also reported clearing 17,837,317 square metres as part of emergency response, resulting in the destruction of 137,502 items of explosive ordnance, including 2,189 anti-personnel mines, 38,724 anti-tank mines, 92,454 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO), and 4,136 improvised explosive devices.
3. Yemen further reported that the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the banner of the Saudi Project for Landmine Clearance MASAM Project cleared 12,998,396 square metres, resulting in the destruction of 1,652 anti-personnel mines, 32,506 anti-tank mines, 41,194 items of unexploded ordnance and 1,404 improvised explosive devices.
4. The Committee observed that Yemen reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and welcomes Yemen's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination (Action #21).
5. The Committee observed the information provided by Yemen on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2022 extension request. The Committee welcomed Yemen providing information on progress 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 (Action #8).

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

6. The Committee observed that Yemen provided some clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18) Yemen reported a remaining challenge of 239 mined areas measuring 51,968,480 square metres, including 160 confirmed mined areas (CHA) measuring 33,689,112 square metres and 79 suspected mined areas (SHA) measuring 18,279,368 square metres. Yemen also reported a list of results from non-technical survey, categorising contamination status by community, district, and Governorate (Action #18).

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<sup>1</sup> "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.

7. The Committee welcomed Yemen reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHAs and CHAs and their relative size (Action #22).
8. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so to 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.
9. Yemen reported that its efforts in determining the exact perimeter of the contaminated areas is carried out through an evidence- based approach. Yemen further reported that there are effectively two different implementing approaches, the first being a 'normal' sectorial approach with Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC), International non-government organisations (INGOs), and the second, with the United Nations (UN) sector working under an established coordination mechanism by the Yemen Mine Action Coordination Cell (YMACC). The Committee observed the importance of Yemen having in place an accurate and evidence-based methodologies in line with IMAS, and that Yemen was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Yemen on these efforts (Action #18).
10. Yemen reported on its efforts to establish Yemen's baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men, highlighting that the National Mine Action Programme (NMAP) respects diversity in religions, customs, colour, cultures, and regions, and that this does not constitute any restrictions on attracting new cadres. Yemen reported that those in charge of the National Mine Action Program are diligent in performing purely humanitarian duty, regardless of the affected people's location and political and ideological affiliation, and that Yemen and the INGOs are aware of the different needs of girls, women, boys, and men, and within their planning, these considerations are taken into account. (Action #18).

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

11. The Committee recalled that Yemen in its 2022 extension request included a work plan and budget for mine action activities for the period 2023-2028 (Action #2, Action #19). The Committee recalled that the workplan for the period of the extension request, included, i) the continuity of YBLS objectives, ii) producing an annual revised work plan to meet its Article 5 obligations, iii) enhancing and improving Information management, iv) supporting the coordination office – YMACC, and v) developing a National Mine Action Strategy (Action #2, Action #19).
12. The Committee observed that Yemen reported the following priorities for 2023: i) humanitarian response, ii) action on the path to fulfilling Article 5 mine clearance obligations, and iii) Coordination (Action #20).
13. Yemen reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation and that in 2022 unpredictable international donor funding caused difficulties within the planning stages for any future activities and that the contribution from the Government of Yemen to the mine action sector decreased significantly due to the economic fall across the country. Yemen also reported that current support of the Government of Yemen only provides support to YEMAC staff with limited medical treatment (Action #1).
14. Yemen reported on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, including the Humanitarian Response Plan (2022-2023) (Action #1, Action #6).
15. Yemen reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, and that the inclusion of women is a priority in the YEMAC and

YMACC, with several women employed in various departments, and that the National Mine Action Programme (NMAP) respects diversity in religions, customs, colour, cultures, and regions. Yemen also reported that identification of hazardous areas in Yemen through non-technical surveys, takes into account the employment of women, as well as diversity according to specific activities and targeted areas, and that Yemen coordinates and plans the process of developing and building capacity issues related to gender, equality and social diversity in the national mine action programme and in coordination and cooperation with various partners. Yemen further reported that during 2022, 2 women from YEMACC were trained as gender focal point in Mine Action (Action #3).

16. Yemen reported on its efforts to develop sustainable national capacities, including the national capacity to conduct basic survey operations to ensure the highest rate of completion and evaluation of the problem. Yemen also reported that Yemen and the INGOs are aware of the different needs of girls, women, boys, and men, and that these different needs are taken into account in their planning (Action #26).

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

17. Yemen reported on its efforts to ensure that its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) reflect the latest methodologies in line with IMAS, including the revision of 31 NMAS chapters expected to be approved in 2023. The Committee welcomes the update from Yemen and would welcome further information on the timeline for the development and approval of the updated national standards (Action #5).

18. Yemen reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including the continued development of the system through technical working groups (Action #9).

19. Yemen reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by improving the effectiveness of information management, prioritisation processes, (Action #27).

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

20. In considering Yemen's 2022 extension request, the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) requested Yemen to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Yemen on;

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Yemen's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land released methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through NTS, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance) with the results disaggregated by the type of explosive ordnance identified and destroyed;
- The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and update on how additional clarity obtained may change Yemen'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 as well as by type of contamination;

- Information on progress in building the capacity of Yemen to address the remaining challenge, including efforts to approve its NMAS, strengthen information management, and the acquisition of necessary equipment;
- Updates regarding efforts to ensure the exclusion of civilians from mined areas including through 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;
- Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively impact annual milestones for emergency clearance and baseline survey of known and suspected mined areas;
- 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, and;
- Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Yemen to support implementation efforts.

21. The Committee would welcome updated information from Yemen on the following decisions of the 20MSP:

- Methodologies employed for survey and clearance efforts; and
- Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of mined areas and amount of area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;

22. The Committee recalled that the decision by the 20MSP on Yemen's request for extension noted that, "As the implementation of Yemen's Article 5 obligations will be affected by new information, the level of resources obtained, changes in the security environment, and the amount of capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Convention would benefit from Yemen submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by **30 April 2024** and **30 April 2026** for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee noted that these work plans should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation and a plan for MRE matched to a revised detailed budget."

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

23. Yemen reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including, methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age. Yemen also reported that it had drafted a NMAS for Mine Risk Education (MRE) that is expected to be approved in 2023. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Yemen and encourages Yemen to provide further information on the timeline of the NMAS approval process (Action #32).

24. Yemen reported that risk education is implemented at the same time with clearance activities, emergency response, and as part of longer MRE campaigns that target specific locations based on different prioritisation needs and the sub-agreement of each implementing partner. Yemen also reported that partners such as Yemen Red Crescent Society, ICRC and international organisations conduct MRE (Action #28).

25. Yemen reported that gender and diversity is considered by making sure of the engagement of women, cultural aspects and applying humanitarian neutrality (Action #29).

26. Yemen reported having a priority setting system in place and that MRE projects are implemented according to the planning mechanism approved in the YMACC and the relevant national policies resulting in operational orders and tasks given to operations according to the outputs of the YBLS, the extent of contamination identified, and nature of the targeted areas (Action #30).

27. Yemen reported on its efforts to continue to conduct training of trainees through the involvement of local authorities, civil society organizations and relevant ministerial bodies (Action #31).

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

28. The Committee observed that Yemen provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including the following:

- The continued impact of COVID-19
- Challenges to the implementation of the information management system,
- Insecurity from ongoing conflict preventing access to mined areas
- Insecurity resulting in changes to access with daily fighting occurring around mined areas
- Increased levels of contamination and the identification of new suspected areas altering priorities during decision making processes
- New technologies being introduced such as IEDs
- Weather conditions including flooding that results in the movement of mines and the need for re-survey, and the economic situation
- Need for more capacity building to address new contamination
- Additional equipment

29. Yemen further reported that due to overall lack of funding, there is a projected funding shortfall of 50% for 2023 and that YEMAC teams are currently paid intermittently and work with no insurance or pension plan.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Yemen**  
**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
<b>#1</b>	# 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						
<b>#2</b>	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
<b>#3</b>	% 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						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
<b>#5</b>	% 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						
<b>#6</b>	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
<b>#8</b>	# 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						
<b>#9</b>	% 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 Yemen was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Yemen on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who 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						
	# 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						
	% 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						
<b>MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION</b>							
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					

