

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia (Chair), Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom)

Intersessional Meetings 18 – 20 June 2024

PART 1: Introduction

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee first met on 13 December 2023 to discuss its work plan towards the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties and has met regularly since this time. During this meeting the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) provided the Committee with an overview of the Committee's mandate as well as the work of the Committee in 2024. The Committee also selected amongst its members a gender focal point (Thailand).
2. On 21 December 2023 the Committee distributed communications to the following States Parties:
 - a. 8 States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in 2024/2025 that were obliged to submit a request for extension by 31 March 2024 – Chad, Cyprus, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Oman, Peru, Serbia - to recall to them the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties;
 - b. 7 States Parties – Cambodia, Croatia, Ecuador, South Sudan, Thailand, Yemen, and Ukraine - that were due to submit updated work plans in 2024 in accordance with previously granted extension requests and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by States Parties on their requests for extension;
 - c. 4 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ethiopia - that were due to submit updated work plans in 2021/2023 in accordance with previously granted extension requests and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by States Parties on their requests for extension.
 - d. 8 States Parties – Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Oman, Somalia, and Sudan - in the process of implementing Article 5 obligations that did not submit Article 7 reports in 2023 as well as to those States Parties that submitted Article 7 reports in 2023, to recall the 30 April 2024 deadline for providing updated information on implementation in accordance with Article 7.
3. On 13-15 February 2024, the Committee participated in the Regional Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Improvised Anti-Personnel Mines within the Framework of the Convention. The Committee led a session which included a round of presentations by affected States on their national context and challenges in addressing contamination by improvised anti-personnel mines.
4. On 12 March 2024 the Committee distributed tailored letters to the 33 States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 obligations to recall the 30 April 2024 deadline for providing updated information on implementation in accordance with Article 7. In its communication the Committee stressed the importance of respecting the 30 April deadline, given the short timeframe

between the deadline and the 18 – 20 June 2024 Intersessional Meetings. The Committee also informed States Parties on how it would proceed in preparing preliminary observations for the Intersessional Meetings and encouraged the use of the Guide to Reporting.

5. On 24 March 2024 the Committee distributed communications to States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in 2025/2026 that that may need to submit a request for extension by 31 March 2025 including Angola, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tajikistan and Türkiye to recall the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties;
6. From February to April 2024 the Committee participated with representatives of the Coordinating Committee in 13 bilateral meetings with the following States Parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Mozambique, Peru, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing their Article 5 commitments and respective obligations under thematic areas of the Convention. The Committee used this opportunity to remind States Parties of their obligations under the Convention and the importance of their adherence with the decision on their respective extension request, where relevant.

On 28 March 2024, the Committee together with the President and representatives of the Coordinating Committee participated in a workshop encouraging adherence of States Parties to their obligation to submit Article 7 Reports by 30 April 2024 and encouraging States Parties to include detailed quantitative and qualitative information on implementation of their Convention commitments in line with the Guide to reporting and the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP). The workshop also encouraged States Parties to increase reporting on the methodologies employed in land release and mine risk education and risk reduction activities and on considerations of gender and diversity.

7. On 10 April 2024 the Committee met with representatives of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines to discuss matters related to the extension request process. During the meeting the ICBL expressed its interest in participating further in the Article 5 process and the need to ensure that States Parties requesting extension of their deadlines ensure the inclusion of work plans for clearance and risk education in accordance with Actions #23 and #24 of the OAP.
8. On 18 April 2024, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation met with the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance to discuss “strengthening synergies between the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance” and exploring the possibility of “establishing a more formalized and recurrent dialogue between the Committee on Article 5 and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance in relation to each extension request” pursuant to *Recommendation 5* of the report entitled consideration “Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention - Extension Request Process”¹ presented by the Committee to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP).
9. During the meeting the Committee discussed current synergies in support of States Parties implementing obligations under Article 5, including; joint bilateral meetings between the Committees and affected States Parties, collaboration in identifying mine affected States Parties that may benefit from taking part in Individualized Approach Meeting, participation of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in Individualized Approach meetings organized by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and joint panel discussions

¹ As contained in document APLC/MSP.21/2023/15.

organized between the two Committees, amongst other. In addition, the Committee's discussed the importance of greater information sharing between the Committees, in particular sharing information on States Parties with upcoming Article 5 deadlines that may require cooperation and assistance to achieve completion by their deadlines, the importance of mine affected States applying the lessons learned and best practices, including participation in the Individualized Approach and, importantly, to establish national mine action platforms that can support regular dialogue between stakeholders and support the mobilization of resources, the benefits that could be derived from the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance supporting the Article 5 Extension Request Process by playing a role in analysis of the budget and requirements for assistance submitted by States Parties in the Requests for Extension, with the aim to ensure that States Parties clearly highlight their needs for assistance and, increasing the level of engagement between the Committees with, when necessary, more regular meetings and dialogues.

10. Following a technical meeting between the ISU and Oman in which Oman indicated that they are on track to meet their 1 February 2025 deadline, the Committee wrote to Oman on 13 May 2024 to invite them to the Intersessional Meetings to share this news with the States Parties and to begin preparations for the drafting and submission of their Voluntary Declaration of Completion in accordance with the recommendations of the States Parties as contained in the document entitled "Reflections and understandings on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations" welcomed by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.
11. During the Intersessional Meetings the Committee aims to engage with States Parties with Article 5 extension request deadlines in 2024/2025 and 2026 to recall the process, offer initial advice in the development of requests and consult with mine affected States Parties on matters related to the extension request process.
12. The Committee carried out a number of efforts to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Article 5 extension request process as established by the States Parties, as follows:
 - a. Following receipt of extension requests from Cyprus (8 March 2024), Guinea – Bissau (19 April 2024), Niger (22 April 2024), Peru (28 March 2024), and Serbia (28 March 2024) - the Committee reached out to expert organisations from 8 April 2024 to request expert input on these requests in accordance with the process established by the States Parties;
 - b. 2 States Parties – Chad, (15 March 2024), Eritrea (27 March 2024) - communicated to the Committee delays in the preparation and submission of requests to extend their respective Article 5 deadlines. As of the time of writing a request by Chad and Eritrea has not been submitted;
 - c. 1 State Party – Oman – indicated that it was on track to meet its Article 5 Implementation deadline, (1 February 2025);
 - d. On 16 April 2024, the Committee sent a letter to all States Parties to inform them of the receipt of requests for extension submitted and to point out that extension requests due to be submitted by Chad, and Eritrea were pending submission; and
 - e. On 22 – 23 May 2024, the Committee convened a meeting with representatives of those expert organisations that provided input on the requests for extension as well as those which have operations in-country. The meeting discussed the main areas of

improvements/clarification States Parties could make on the information provided in their requests to support their dialogue with the requesting State Party.

13. In the lead up to the Intersessional Meetings, the Committee worked on the development of preliminary observations based on information submitted by the States Parties in their Article 7 Reports, updated work plans and extension requests. The methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations followed established practice as explained below.

II. Methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations

14. The Committee is mandated to “review relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties, including in the context of Article 7 obligations and on efforts undertaken under Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance.”

15. The Committee is further mandated to “review relevant information provided by the States Parties on implementation of the commitments contained in the Oslo Action Plan” and to “consider matters related to gender and diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work.”

16. In preparing its observations the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties in 2024 in the context of Article 7 reporting, information contained in requests for extended deadlines submitted in 2024, information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests such as in updated work plans and any additional information provided in writing by States Parties on Article 5 implementation.

17. In line with its purpose of intensifying efforts to ensure the full implementation of Article 5, and in an effort to build upon the approach established in 2015, taking into account the OAP, adopted at the Fourth Review Conference, the Committee gave particular attention to the following:

- a. Increased clarity regarding progress made and remaining implementation challenges, with this clarity being encouraged through Article 7 reports, Article 5 extension requests and information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests;
- b. Improvements in the measurability of Article 5 implementation over time, with improvements in the quality of information permitting greater understanding and comparability;
- c. Efficient and expedient implementation of evidence based and costed national work plans to achieve completion with commitments to apply the most relevant land release standards and methodologies and including provision for sustainable “capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;”
- d. Delivery of context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk based on needs assessment and tailored to the threat encountered by the population;
- e. Integration of gender and consideration of the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in work plans and strategies.
- f. Provision of quality information on progress and challenges in implementing Article 5 obligations of the Convention.

18. Given the subject matter present in States Parties Article 7 reports with relevant actions of the OAP, including Best Practices for Implementing the Convention, Actions #1-10, Survey and Clearance of Mined Areas, Actions #18 to #32, and Mine Risk Education and Reduction, Actions #28-32, the Committee proceeded to prepare observations on the following matters:

- Clarity on progress in implementation
- Clarity regarding remaining challenges
- Implementation of national plans for clearance and survey
- Application of land release standards, policies and methodologies
- National information management systems
- Actions related to commitments in extension requests and decisions on requests
- Mine risk reduction and risk reduction efforts
- Integration of gender and consideration of the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities
- Challenges in implementation

19. In reviewing information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation, the Committee noted different degrees of clarity regarding the location of all areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. As a result, the Committee has used terminology in its preliminary observations in the following manner:

- a. “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 and with this list including 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.
- b. “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 / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.
- c. “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 / district within the State.

III. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation

20. At the close of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, 33 States Parties reported having an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention; Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

21. Since the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, two States Parties - Burkina Faso and Mali – have reported newly mined areas on territory under their jurisdiction or control. The Committee welcomed Burkina Faso and Mali acting in accordance with the commitments made at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties as contained in the paper “Proposed rationale response to States

Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed”, to “immediately inform all States Parties of such a discovery and shall undertake to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area as soon as possible”. The Committee also recalled the importance for States Parties, in the case that they will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference (whichever falls earlier), should submit a request for an extended deadline, which should be as short as possible and no more than ten years, either to that Meeting or Review Conference if the timing of the discovery permits or to the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference if the timing of the discovery does not permit, in accordance with the obligations enshrined in Article 5 and the process for submission of requests for extensions agreed to at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

22. The Committee further recalled the importance of States Parties concerned by this decision to continue to fulfil their reporting obligations under Article 7 of the Convention, including the obligation to report on the location of all mined areas that contain or are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines under their jurisdiction or control and on the status of programs for their destruction, and that each State Party should also continue to provide updates relative to these and other commitments at meetings of the Standing Committees, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences.
23. The Committee is concerned that, as of 6 June 2024, Chad and Eritrea have not submitted request for extension. The Committee recalls that the submission of late requests places a burden on the Committee on Article 5 Implementation as well as to the cooperative dialogue between the States Parties requesting extension and the Committee. The Committee encourages these States Parties to submit their request for extension as soon as possible. In this regard, the Committee further highlighted the importance of States Parties acting in accordance with the decision made on their request for extension and encouraged States Parties with outstanding work plans to submit them as soon as possible.
24. Of the now 35 States Parties that have reported mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as of 6 June 2024 the following States Parties had provided information on progress in implementation:
 - a. 27 States Parties – Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe - submitted Article 7 transparency reports containing updated information on implementation of Article 5.
25. Of the 7 States Parties - Cambodia, Croatia, Ecuador, South Sudan, Thailand, Yemen, and Ukraine - that were due to submit updated work plans by 30 April 2024 pursuant to decisions taken on their requests for extension;
 - a. Four States Party - Cambodia, Thailand, Ukraine, and Yemen – submitted updated workplans by 30 April 2024. Two States Party - Croatia, (31 May 2024), and South Sudan (1 May 2024) submitted updated workplans in May.
 - b. As of 6 June 2024, one State Party – Ecuador – has not submitted an updated work plan in accordance pursuant to the decision on its request for extension.

24. As of 6 June 2024, the following States Parties had not submitted an updated work plan following the decisions of the States Parties; Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Niger. In the case of one State Party – **Niger** - has submitted a request to extend its mine clearance deadline for consideration by the Fifth Review Conference. The Committee would welcome further information on the process and timeline for submission of updated work plans from the States Parties.

26. As highlighted above, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation has continuously availed in its efforts to engage with Eritrea. Eritrea was obliged to submit a request to extend its 31 December 2024 Article 5 deadline by 31 March 2024. As of 6 June 2024 Eritrea has not submitted a request for an extended deadline.

27. One State Party – Mozambique, which in its Declaration of Completion of its Article 5 obligations in 2015 indicated 9 suspected hazard areas that remain seasonally or permanently submerged under water in Inhambane Province. Mozambique highlighted that all tasks were subjected to technical survey and clearance up to the water line during the annual dry season with no direct evidence found to confirm the presence of mines in any of these areas and committee to marking and regularly monitored these areas to confirm if the area ever dries enough to allow further technical survey. Mozambique reported that in 2016, five of areas became accessible and that technical survey resulted in their subsequent reduction and cancellation. Mozambique reported in 2018, that the four remaining areas measuring 1,881 square metres remained inaccessible. Mozambique further reported that these mined areas are continuously monitored and will be addressed once the water level recedes and access is gained for their clearance. Mozambique reported in 2019 that four areas measuring 1,881 square metres remain inaccessible. Mozambique reported in 2022 that it had already been declared a mine-free country in 2015, however, is now dealing with residual cases throughout the country, with no identified areas, but rather there are occasional isolated cases that sometimes cause some accidents. The Committee observed that Mozambique in its Article 7 report submitted in 2024 reported information is ‘unchanged’. The Committee welcomes the update from Mozambique and would welcome continual updates on the monitoring and response to flooded areas.

28. Of the 35 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, as of 6 June 2024, 8 have not submitted Article 7 reports: – Afghanistan, Ecuador, Eritrea, Nigeria, Oman, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Sudan.

V. Observations of a general natureⁱ

29. The Committee welcomes the information submitted by States Parties as well as their engagement with the Committee during bilateral meetings that has allowed a cooperative dialogue to take place between the Committee and the States Parties.

30. The Committee observed that, as of 6 June 2024, an increase in the number of reports (27) submitted by States Parties with Article 5 obligations compared to the previous year (22). The Committee also observed an increase in the quality and coverage of the reports in addressing respective actions of the OAP had also increased, submitted by States Parties. The Committee recalls that submission of an Article 7 reports on an annual basis is an obligation under the Convention.

31. The Committee observed that of the 8 States Parties that have not submitted reports in 2024, the following 6 States Party had not submitted Article 7 Reports for two or more years – Afghanistan (3 years), Ecuador (2 years), Eritrea (9 years), Oman (3 years), Somalia (4 years), Sudan (2 years).

The Committee looks forward to continued cooperation with these States Parties to ensure they submit, as soon as possible, an Article 7 Report containing updated information on implementation efforts.

32. In this regard, the Committee recalled Action #49 of the OAP: “Any State Party implementing obligations in particular under Article 4 or 5, or retaining or transferring mines in line with Article 3 that has not submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing these obligations each year will provide in close cooperation with the ISU an annual update on the status of implementation in line with Article 7 and will provide information to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. If no information on implementing the relevant obligations for two consecutive years is provided, the President will assist and engage with the States Parties concerned in close cooperation with the relevant Committee”. The Committee will continue its work with the President in this regard.
33. The Committee noted the obligation for States Parties to submit Article 7 transparency reports by 30 April each calendar year. The Committee further emphasises the importance of the submission of outstanding reports in order to inform the States Parties of progress in implementation and to allow the Committee to develop its conclusions.
34. The Committee observed that 7 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Iraq, Mali, Türkiye, and Yemen - reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and reported to ensure that they apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination as they do for all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Article 5 and disaggregate by types of mines when reporting in fulfilment of Article 7 obligations.
35. Furthermore, Mexico, in its effort to ensure transparency in accordance with the Convention, reported incidents caused by improvised explosive devices or artisanal mines in the State of Michoacan, during the reporting period. Mexico indicated that these devices were located, deactivate and destroyed without any accidents having been recorded during these activities. Mexico further indicate that given the artisanal nature, there is no detailed record including details on their activation mechanism. Mexico further indicated that the use of these weapons is sporadic and not widespread and there are no areas that could be considered contaminated within its national territory. The Committee welcomes the information submitted by Mexico.
36. The Committee noted the importance of States Parties continuing to report updated information on contamination in areas under their jurisdiction or control and will continue to work with affected States Parties in this regard. The Committee encourages States Parties that face challenges with armed non-state actors to clarify the situation in terms of the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature by these actors and any challenges faced with accessing contaminated areas (Action #21).
37. In addition to anti-personnel mines, a number of States Parties face challenges associated with other explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance. In these States Parties, efforts to implement Article 5 are part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards. The Committee observes that, this being the case, it is important that States Parties continue to disaggregate information on their contamination in order to ensure clarity concerning the remaining challenge under Article 5. Nonetheless, the Committee recognizes that the impact of a particular type of contamination on the population needs to be considered in prioritization efforts. The Committee also reiterates the important of States Parties disaggregating their contamination by type of explosive ordnance to provide clarity.

38. The Committee observed that the information provided by 21 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous reporting. In this regard, the Committee recalled the importance of the inclusion of detailed milestones for implementation in the request for extension, updated work plans, as well as providing updated milestones in their Article 7 Reports.
39. The Committee observed that the information provided by 19 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Türkiye, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - included disaggregated information on their remaining challenge in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (Action #22).
40. The Committee observes that, in a number of cases, progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States implementing Article 5 obligations used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS (i.e. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”; disaggregating data by activity that is non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance; reporting progress according to the result of each activity where land is cancelled, reduced or cleared). The Committee reiterates the importance of States providing information in this manner in order to have a clear understanding of the status of implementation efforts. The Committee will continue its bilateral engagement with concerned States Parties to further encourage the proper use of this terminology.
41. The Committee observed that the information provided by 18 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – employed the Guide to Reporting (fully or partially) which supported their efforts to provide clarity concerning their remaining challenge and progress made. The Committee continues to encourage States Parties with Article 5 obligations to employ the Guide to Reporting, which could be of considerable assistance in providing clarity concerning progress and status in implementing Article 5 obligations, and progress in implementation of commitments included in the OAP (Action #8).
42. The Committee observed that 15 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on the integration of Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans (Action #1).
43. The Committee observed that 17 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation (Action #1). The Committee encourages States Parties to maintain national interest at a high level in fulfilling Convention obligations to ensure that mine action continues to play its important role in support to mine affected communities.
44. The Committee observed that 15 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported on their efforts 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 (Action #6).

45. The Committee observed that 22 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on their efforts to develop evidence based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans to fulfil and implement Convention obligations as soon as possible (Action #2).
46. The Committee observed that 22 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported having developed evidence-based and in many cases, costed national work plans, including projections of the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually (Action #19). The Committee noted the importance of States Parties that reported mined areas under their jurisdiction or control to carrying out evidence-based non-technical and technical survey as soon as possible to determine the precise perimeters of mined areas.
47. The Committee observed that 18 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe reported having updated national mine action standards in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee recognized the importance of States Parties ensuring that National Mine Action Standards are in line with best practice and implemented to ensure the efficient and effective implementation (Action #5).
48. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported having a national sustainable information management system in place (Action #9).
49. The Committee observed that 18 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported on their steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect. The Committee recalled the importance of States Parties, “making use of the full range of emerging practical methods to more rapidly release, with a high level of confidence, areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines”² and further recalled the importance of the importance of research and innovative technology to support the more efficient implementation of Article 5 (Action #27).
50. The Committee observed that 16 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported adjusted milestones to their national work plans based on new evidence. The Committee noted the importance of States Parties annually updating their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports, including the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established (Action #20). The Committee observed that

² APLC/MSP.12/2012/4 Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process.

of the 8 States Parties with deadlines in 2024 and 2025, ahead of the estimated date for the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties, 4 States Parties – Cyprus, Guinea-Bissau, Peru and Serbia - submitted requests in a timely manner. The Committee also observed that 4 States Parties – Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Peru and Serbia - submitted requests containing detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period and are developed through an inclusive process, in line with the decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, and the recommendations endorsed by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties in the paper «Reflections on the Article 5 Extensions Process».

51. The Committee observed that of the 4 States Parties that submitted extension requests to the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties - 2 States Parties – Guinea-Bissau, and Serbia - submitted extension requests containing detailed, costed and multiyear plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities. The Committee continues its collaboration with requesting States Parties to seek clarification in aspects of its implementation efforts.

52. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Niger, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on their efforts to build a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion that may be discovered following completion of their Article 5 obligations. The Committee observed that 7 States Parties – Colombia, Croatia, Niger, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe - reported having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas (Action #26). The Committee noted the importance of States Parties ensuring that provisions for a national capacity are integrated into national strategies and work plans for completion as early as possible in the life of the mine action programme to ensure that a *tried and tested* capacity is in place well ahead of completion.

53. The Committee also observed that a 2 States Parties - Algeria and Nicaragua - which have completed implementation of their Article 5 obligations, reported addressing residual contamination during the reporting period. The Committee further observed that Lithuania reported on national efforts to reduce contamination by explosive remnants of war. The Committee welcomes States Parties reporting on addressing residual contamination.

54. Acknowledging the valuable contribution of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the Committee notes that States Parties requiring assistance are invited to engage directly with the ISU in order to benefit from its advice and support in matters concerning the implementation of Article 5.

VI. Mine Risk Education and Reduction

44. The Committee observed that 25 States Parties – Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on the actions they have taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines through the implementation of mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in their Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).

45. The Committee observed that 17 States Parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan,

Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe were integrated with wider humanitarian, development, protection, and education efforts. The Committee observed that 15 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe reported Mine Risk Education programmes being integrated into ongoing survey and clearance activities and based on this integrated approach were prioritised based on the risk posed to communities (Action #28).

46. The Committee recalled that while the integration of MRE/R into education was established practice, it took diverse forms and more detailed reporting could assist with the development of best practices. In addition, the Committee recognized the importance, in most cases, of ensuring sustainability in MRE/R following completion of Article 5.

47. The Committee observed that 16 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported on having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place (Action #29). The Committee observed that 15 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on their efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking these programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty data (Action #30).

48. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on their efforts to build a national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes (Action #31).

VII. Gender and the diverse needs of affected communities

49. The Committee observed that 12 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation. The Committee would welcome further information on the specific steps and efforts taken by the States Parties to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform their efforts to implement their mine action programmes (Action #3).

50. The Committee observed that 10 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe – reported having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee encourages States Parties to increase their reporting on this action (Action #18).

51. The Committee noted the commitment of States Parties to provide context-specific mine risk education / reduction programmes that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. In this regard, the Committee welcomed information from 13 States Parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Mauritania, Senegal Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen, and Zimbabwe — reporting to carry out MRE/R activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs (Action #29).

Table 1: Information on progress in implementation of Article 5 of the Convention as reported in 2024 - Article 7 Transparency Reports (submitted up to 6 June 2024)ⁱⁱⁱⁱ

		Reported Progress made				Reported Remaining Challenge					
		Cancelled (m ²)	Reduced (m ²)	Cleared (m ²)	Total (m ²) ³	Number of SHAs	Suspected Hazardous Area (m ²)	Number of CHAs	Confirmed Hazardous Area (m ²)	Total number of mined areas to be addressed ⁴	Total area to be addressed (m ²) ⁵
1	Afghanistan										
2	Angola	720 044	3 390 644	5 953 456	10 604 144	80	2 274 471	936	65 157 718	1 016	67 432 189
3	Argentina										
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	16 380 000	15 660 000	360 000	32 400 000	6 242	820 380 652	670	17 907 279	6 912	838 287 931 ⁶
5	Cambodia	31 446 520	129 039 302	167 528 820	328 014 642	4 330	435 064 084			4 330	435 064 084
6	Chad				1 690 943	48	21 678 562	72	56 016 433	120	77 694 995
7	Colombia	27 717	160 389	865 080	1 053 186	317	2 207 720	274	2 265 648	591	4 473 368
8	Croatia	10 864 629	5 606 360	41 506 960	58 539 626 ⁷		32 459 021 ⁸		78 574 559		111 033 580 ⁹
9	Cyprus										
10	Democratic Republic of the Congo	7 530	4 938	5 184	17 652			29 ¹⁰	350 667	29	350 667
11	Ecuador										
12	Eritrea										
13	Ethiopia ¹¹					123	722 548 937	29	3 519 538	152	726 068 475
14	Guinea-Bissau ¹²					43 ¹³		9	1 093 840	52	1 093 840
15	Iraq ¹⁴	106 862 505	19 931 485	19 804 993	146 598 983	675	181 276 677	4 819	1 454 427 340	5 494	1 635 704 017 ¹⁵
16	Mauritania									22	22 369 724
17	Niger ¹⁶										177 760
18	Nigeria										
19	Oman										
20	State of Palestine			564 962	564 962	65	18 510 889	16	604 634	81	19 115 523
21	Peru			48 065	48 065					60 ¹⁷	302 961
22	Senegal	15 687		48 405	64 092	11 ¹⁸		27	339 375	38	339 375
23	Serbia			122 200	122 200	6 ¹⁹	4 467 643	1	268 100		4 735 743
24	Somalia										
25	South Sudan	20 527		559 875	580 402	45	2 326 532	69	2 988 573	114	5 315 105

³ The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning areas cancelled, reduced, and cleared, given that some States Parties have not presented information on areas released in a disaggregated manner.

⁴ The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning the number of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on the remaining challenge in a disaggregated manner.

⁵ The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on the remaining challenge in a disaggregated manner.

⁶ Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 34 mine suspected areas (MSAs) measuring 56.6 square kilometres and 6 individual tasks of technical survey and clearance measuring 0.56 square kilometres, with a total number of 170,657 mines remaining to be addressed. Bosnia and Herzegovina has indicated that a mine suspected areas is: "An area made up of SHAs and CHAs which encompasses one or more impacted communities and due to economic, cultural or geographical and other reasons is selected as a logical unit...MSA represents an organizational task for a demining organization".

⁷ Croatia reported a total area cleared measuring 58,539,626 square metres, including 57,977,949 square metres of mined area addressed in municipalities and towns, and 561,677 square metres cleared in mined areas under the authority of the Ministry of Defence.

⁸ Croatia reported a total amount of suspected hazardous area of 13,559,021 square metres in 21 municipalities/towns and 18.9 square kilometres of suspected mined area under the authority of the Ministry of Defence.

⁹ Croatia reported a total remaining challenge including 92,133,580 square metres of mined area located in 21 municipalities and towns, and 18.9 square kilometres of mined area located in mined areas under the authority of the Ministry of Defence.

¹⁰ The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported a remaining challenge of 29 "dangerous areas".

¹¹ Ethiopia reported that in 2023 the HALO Trust was operating in Siti, Fafan, Jarar districts of Somali region.

¹² Guinea-Bissau reported that in 2023 it implemented the following activities; i) acquired information technology equipment to support the setting up of a new information management system, ii) fundraising for the period 2024.

¹³ Guinea-Bissau reported 43 suspected hazardous areas of unknown size.

¹⁴ The figures for Iraq including aggregated data on progress in implementation for mined areas under the authority of the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA).

¹⁵ The figures for Iraq including aggregated data on Iraq's remaining challenge including mined areas under the authority of the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA).

¹⁶ Niger reported no progress in implementation in 2023 due to the following factors; insufficient resources, priorities in the fight against terrorism and against the proliferation of weapons, and a lack of support from partners.

¹⁷ Peru reported 60 "objectives" remaining to be addressed.

¹⁸ Senegal reported 11 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) of unknown size.

¹⁹ Serbia in its extension request submitted to the Fifth Review Conference, indicated 6 suspected mined areas measuring 4,367,643 square metres require survey and that it will conduct a survey of 59 villages in Bujanovac municipality.

26	Sri Lanka										
27	Sudan										
28	Tajikistan	451 866	420 401	413 791	1 286 058	9	948 000 ²⁰	125	6 594 275	134	7 542 275
29	Thailand	392 702	7 822 303	548,082	8,763,087	11	8 400 715	85	13 384 835	96	21,785,550
30	Türkiye	4 691 257	353 082	915 683	5 960 022	1 679	132 560 416	1 980	92 809 889	3 659	225 370 305
31	Ukraine		44 275	184 797	1 039 072 ²¹	116	11 877 924	408	23 344 445	525	35 222 370
32	Yemen		290 812	184 411	21 694 964 ²²	55	2 968 602	38	2 444 553	93	5 413 155
33	Zimbabwe	19 806	378 004	1 907 436	2 305 246			5	16 164 297	5	16 164 297
	Total	171 900 790	183 641 995	241 522 200	620 785 669²³	13 844	2 381 439 956	9 565	1 837 651 364	23 523	4 261 057 288

²⁰ The total amount of suspected hazardous areas does not include SHA located on the Tajikistan-Uzbekistan border. The Committee recalled that Tajikistan in its extension request submitted to the Fourth Review Conference in 2019 indicated that in the period 2011- 2015, Tajikistan conducted NTS activities in the Tajik side of the border with Uzbekistan. The surveys registered 82 mine accidents and 54 suspected hazardous areas in six of those districts with estimated size 3,250,000 square metres.

²¹ Ukraine reported progress in implementation measuring 1,039,072 square metres, including *in part* 44 275 square metres reduced and 184 797 square metres cleared.

²² Yemen reported a total of 21,694,964 square metres addressed, including; 475, 223 square metres, 10,908,308 square metres addressed as part of emergency clearance, and 10,311,433 square metres addressed through 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.

²³ The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on areas released in a disaggregated manner.

Table 2: Information provided by States on implementation on relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan (2024)

No.	State Party	Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2024	Level of clarity on the remaining implementation challenge (Action #18)	Relevant Action of the Oslo Action Plan – Mine Clearance																		
				1	2	3	5	6	8	9	18	19	20	21	22	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
1	Afghanistan																					
2	Angola	X	Some clarity	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√					√
3	Argentina	X																				
4	Bosnia & Herzegovina	X	Some clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
5	Burkina Faso	X	Some clarity		√		√				√	√		√			√					√
6	Cambodia	X	Some clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
7	Chad	X	Some clarity		√			√		√	√			√								√
8	Colombia	X	Clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
9	Croatia	X	Clarity	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
10	Cyprus	X																				
11	Democratic Republic of Congo	X	Clarity		√							√										√
12	Ecuador		High degree of clarity																			
13	Eritrea																					
14	Ethiopia	X	Some clarity	√			√	√														√
15	Guinea Bissau	X	Some clarity		√		√		√	√		√					√	√	√	√	√	√
16	Iraq	X	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
17	Mali	X	Some clarity							√			√									√
18	Mauritania	X	Some clarity		√				√	√	√			√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√
19	Niger	X	Some clarity		√		√					√	√		√	√	√	√				√
20	Nigeria		Some clarity																			
21	Oman																					
22	Palestine, State of	X	Some clarity								√		√		√					√		√
23	Peru	X	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√
24	Senegal	X	Some clarity		√		√		√			√	√				√	√	√	√	√	√
25	Serbia	X	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
26	Somalia																					
27	South Sudan	X	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
28	Sri Lanka		Clarity																			
29	Sudan		High degree of clarity																			
30	Tajikistan	X	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√
31	Thailand		High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
32	Türkiye	X	Some clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
33	Ukraine	X	Clarity		√			√		√	√	√		√	√							√
34	Yemen	X	Clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
35	Zimbabwe	X	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

ⁱ Source: Information as provided by States Parties in their Article 7 reports submitted until 6 June 2024, unless otherwise stated. Article 7.2: The information provided in accordance with this Article shall be updated by the States Parties annually, covering the last calendar year, and reported to the Secretary General of the United Nations not later than 30 April of each year”. Accordingly, in order to accommodate States Parties, Article 7 Transparency reports were accepted by the Committee for the benefit of transmitting its general observations until 6 June 2024. Information submitted by States Parties after 6 June 2024 will be considered in the conclusions of the Committee submitted to the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties (5RC).

ⁱⁱ Source: In order to monitor progress in implementing the OAP information submitted in the States Parties’ annual Article 7 reports serve as the main source of data for Table 1 and Table 2 unless otherwise stated.

ⁱⁱⁱ Note : All figures reported in square kilometres have been converted to square metres for consistency in this table.