

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY GUINEA-BISSAU

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Thailand (Chair), United Kingdom, Algeria, Norway)

Intersessional Meetings 17 – 20 June 2025

I. Progress in implementation (Action 8, 20, 22)

1. Guinea-Bissau reported that in 2024 it conducted 14 explosive ordnance disposal tasks resulting in the clearance of 24,810 square metres and destruction of 227 explosive devices.
2. Guinea-Bissau also reported that as a result of non-technical survey 5 hazardous areas were cancelled, 10 new hazardous areas were identified, including 2 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 124,566 square metres and 8 suspected hazardous areas (SHA).
3. Guinea-Bissau further reported that non-technical survey was conducted in northern (Oio) and western (Cacheu) regions, resulting in identification of 15 SHAs measuring 187,209 square metres.
4. The Committee observed that the information provided by Guinea-Bissau on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided previously in Guinea-Bissau's extension request submitted to the Fifth Review Conference (5RC). The Committee further welcomed Guinea-Bissau employing the Guide to Reporting in the drafting of its annual Article 7 report.
5. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau could improve clarity on progress, by reporting in accordance with land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance). The committee also observed that Guinea-Bissau could improve clarity on progress, by reporting in a disaggregated manner by type of contamination.

II. Remaining challenge (Action 18, 22)

6. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau provided some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge. Guinea-Bissau reported a remaining challenge measuring 1,049,611 square metres, as well as 38 SHAs of an unknown size requiring re-survey. Guinea-Bissau also reported 9 hazardous areas measuring 925,045 square metres requiring re-survey, and 28 one-off tasks also requiring survey.
7. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau could improve clarity by reporting remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHA and CHA and their relative size.
8. Action 17 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) requests States Parties that have not yet done so, to identify suspected and confirmed hazardous areas to the extent possible and establish

¹ "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.

as soon as possible, accurate baselines of contamination using data and evidence-based information collected in an inclusive manner including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

9. Action 17 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to identify accurate baselines of contamination using data- and evidence-based information collected in an inclusive manner. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (Action 1-3, 18-21)

10. Action 3 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans to implement Convention obligations as soon as possible and no later than the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties (22MSP) and ensure that they are periodically reviewed and updated based on new evidence. The Committee recalled that Guinea-Bissau's extension request submitted to the SRC, included a work plan and budget for the extension period that included the following priorities: a) implementation of non-technical survey 2024-2026, b) implementation of marking and clearance activities in support of the non-technical survey 2024-2026, and c) implementation of marking and clearance activities according to identified needs and priorities 2026-2027. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.
11. The Committee recalled that Guinea-Bissau's extension request submitted to the SRC included specific activities that Guinea-Bissau will carry out during the period 2024-2025, including: a) creation of an information management system, b) review and adoption of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) aligned with IMAS, c) extension of the capacities for the national non-technical survey, d) preparation of technical activities (technical control, marking and clearance), e) resumption of mine risk education activities, f) assistance to victims, and g) resource mobilisation. The request also indicates the following activities to be carried out during the period of 2025-2027: a) monitoring and evaluation of activities, (Quality Assurance/Quality Control), b) strengthening capacities of CAAMI and operators, and c) development of a residual risk management strategy. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.
12. Action 19 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to ensure that survey and clearance are prioritised based on clear nationally-driven humanitarian and sustainable development criteria with consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, and the environment. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.
13. Action 1 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, partnership and coordination, by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, strategies and budgets, as appropriate. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.
14. Action 2 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to establish sustainable national capacities able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme including survey, clearance. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.
15. Action 21 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to ensure the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to implement the Convention and address previously unknown mined areas, including

newly mined areas, discovered following completion. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

IV. Efficient implementation, innovative approaches, methods, and technological means (Action 4, 9, 25)

16. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date, including the approval of national mine action standards based on IMAS.

17. Action 9 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to establish and maintain a national, centrally managed information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

18. Action 25 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance including through the application of up-to-date National Mine Action Standards in line with IMAS and promote the research, analysis, and adoption of innovative approaches, methods, and technological means to this effect. The Committee observed that while Guinea-Bissau had reported that its survey and clearance efforts are carried out in accordance with the requirements of safety and environmental standards, the Committee would welcome further information on Guinea-Bissau's efforts to update its national mine action standards in line with most recent IMAS, and further efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them (Action 23)

19. In considering Guinea-Bissau's 2025 extension request, the 5RC requested Guinea-Bissau to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on the following decisions of the 5RC:

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Guinea-Bissau's work plan with progress in survey and clearance presented in a manner consistent with IMAS and progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
- The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Guinea-Bissau's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation, including adjusted annual milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- Updates on Guinea-Bissau's efforts to approve its NMAS including updates in accordance with the latest IMAS;
- The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, by disaggregating by 'suspect hazardous areas', and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size including by disaggregating between the type of contamination to ensure increased clarity on the remaining challenges;
- Efforts to develop and implement a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced, and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

- Efforts 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;
- Efforts to strengthen its national capacity to implement its obligations under the Convention and to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion;
- Efforts to ensure consideration for the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities as well as climate and environmental considerations in the implementation of the Convention;
- The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension including information on victims disaggregated by gender and age; and
- Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received, and resource made available by the Government of Guinea-Bissau to support implementation efforts.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (Action 18,23, 26-29)

20. Action 18 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey, clearance, and mine risk education as soon as possible and in an inclusive manner. The Committee would welcome further information on Guinea-Bissau's efforts to develop a work plan for mine risk education.
21. Action 29 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to report on the implementation of mine risk education programmes, including information on how priorities were established, methodologies used, challenges faced, and results achieved and include information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities. The Committee observed that while Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from mined areas, including 543 risk education sessions with results achieved disaggregated by gender and age, and the methodologies used, the Committee would welcome further information from Guinea-Bissau on how priorities were established and challenges faced.
22. Action 26 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to integrate mine risk education and risk reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.
23. Action 27 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and prioritise people most at risk by ensuring that these programmes are developed on an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, climate and environmental risk, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. The Committee observed that while Guinea-Bissau reported on efforts to deliver risk education on the Bissau-Senegalese border, the Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to tailor risk education activities to the threat encountered by the population, on an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, climate and environmental risks.
24. Action 28 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to establish sustainable national capacities to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes able to adapt to changing needs and contexts including in the case that previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas are discovered

and/or in emergency settings. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

VII. Best Practices in implementation (Action 5, 6, 18)

25. Action 5 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to ensure that gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of women, girls, boys and men in mine-affected communities including mine survivors, are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

26. Action 18 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey, clearance, and mine risk education as soon as possible and in an inclusive manner. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

27. Action 6 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to ensure that climate and environmental considerations inform all relevant areas of Convention implementation to appropriately address climate and environmental risks. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

VIII. International Cooperation and Assistance (Action 40-42, 45)

28. Action 40 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet their Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible funding sources including conventional and alternative/innovative sources and mechanisms of funding such as front-loading models. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

29. Action 41 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to develop resource mobilisation plans and use all mechanisms to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance including through annual Article 7 reports, requests for extension under Article 5 and updated work plans where applicable, and by taking advantage of the Individualised Approach tool. The Committee welcomed Guinea-Bissau's efforts to arrange an Individualised Approach meeting on the margins of the 2025 Intersessional Meetings.

30. Action 42 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to strengthen national level coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance including by establishing an appropriate National Mine Action Platform, wherever possible. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

31. Action 45 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to explore opportunities for international, regional, and bilateral cooperation including between affected States Parties or triangular cooperation for the voluntary sharing of national experiences and good practices. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts in this regard.

IX. Challenges in implementation (Action 29, 41)

32. Guinea-Bissau reported on challenges and requirements for assistance, including that as of 31 December 2024 all international funding has ceased and mine action activities in Guinea-Bissau cannot continue without renewed funding.

The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan country reporting tracker

Article 5 Implementation

Guinea-Bissau

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#1	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating Convention implementation activities into: national development plans and budgets, strategies and budgets including on poverty reduction, humanitarian response, on health and mental health, gender equality inclusion of persons with disabilities, peacebuilding, Human Rights, climate change adaptation plans, environmental protection and improvement, and/or disaster risk reduction.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report integrating Convention implementation activities into: national development plans and budgets, strategies and budgets.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having strengthened partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities with relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, climate, environmental, development, health, disability, and human rights sectors.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having strengthened partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities.
#2	Percentage of affected States Parties reporting having sustainable national capacities in place able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme including survey, clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance and undertake post completion activities, including management of residual risk.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to reporting having sustainable national capacities in place.
#3	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having reviewed and updated their national strategies and work plan based on new evidence.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having reviewed and updated their national strategies and work plan based on new evidence.
#4	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having up-to-date National Mine Action Standards in place in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.						
#5	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies integrating gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report national work plans and strategies.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies developed through inclusive consultation with stakeholders including survivors and representatives of mine-affected communities,						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report national work plans and strategies developed through inclusive consultation.
#17	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating climate and environmental considerations into Convention implementation activities, including in their national strategies and work plans.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report integrating climate and environmental considerations into Convention implementation activities, including in their national strategies and work plans.
#17	Percentage of States Parties that submit Article 7 reports by 30 April of each year.						
	Percentage of States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.						

#9	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national, centrally-managed information management system in place containing up-to-date information on implementation at the national level.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having a national, centrally-managed information management system in place containing up-to-date information on implementation at the national level.
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SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#17	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a baseline through inclusive consultations.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having established a baseline through inclusive consultations.
#117	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey and clearance.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey and clearance.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in their Article 7 reports updates to their national work plans, including adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including budgets for implementation, and requirements for assistance						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report in their Article 7 reports updates to their national work plans, including adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including budgets for implementation, and requirements for assistance.
#19	Number of affected States Parties that report on the inclusion of humanitarian and sustainable development criteria in survey, clearance, planning, and prioritisation.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report on the inclusion of humanitarian and sustainable development criteria in survey, clearance, planning, and prioritisation.
	Number of affected States Parties that report on the consideration of inclusion of gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, climate, and environment in survey and clearance planning and prioritisation.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report on the consideration of inclusion of gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, climate, and environment in survey and clearance planning and prioritisation.
#20	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature including in survey and clearance operations under Article 5.						
	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to reporting obligations under Article 7.						
#21	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national capacity in place to implement the Convention and address any previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas discovered following completion.						
	Number of States Parties that following completion, report the discovery of previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas.						
#22	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on their remaining challenge in a manner disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size.						

	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress made to address mined areas in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in a disaggregated manner by type of contamination.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report in a disaggregated manner by type of contamination.
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of extension requests submitted that ensure consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, as well as climate, and the environment.						
#24	Number of affected States Parties that declare completion of their Article 5 obligations.						
	Percentage of these States Parties that submit voluntary Declarations of Completion.						
#25	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report on efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on research, analysis, and the adoption of innovative approaches, methods, and technological means to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report on research, analysis, and the adoption of innovative approaches, methods, and technological means to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actio ns	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2026	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#17	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education;						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education;
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for risk education activities.						
#26	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having integrated mine risk education and reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, development, health, mental health, climate, the environment, education, and/or disaster risk reduction or other relevant plans; as well as within survey, clearance and victim assistance activities.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having integrated mine risk education and reduction programmes within wider plans.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to reduce the affected population's risk-taking behaviour and to increase knowledge and awareness.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report on efforts to reduce the affected population's risk-taking behaviour and to increase knowledge and awareness.
#27	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes tailored to the threat encountered by the population and which prioritises people most at risk.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes tailored to the threat encountered by the population and which prioritises people most at risk.

#28	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having sustainable national capacities in place to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes in case previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas are discovered and/or in emergency settings.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having sustainable national capacities in place to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes in case previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas are discovered and/or in emergency settings.
#29	Percentage of affected States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction programmes including information on how priorities are established, methodologies used (e.g. interpersonal, mass, or digital media), challenges faced, and results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report carrying out mine risk education and reduction programmes including information on how priorities are established, methodologies used (e.g. interpersonal, mass, or digital media), challenges faced, and results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
40	Percentage of affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of survey and clearance;						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report making national financial commitments to the implementation of survey and clearance.
	Percentage of States Parties that report on exploring all possible sources of funding, including conventional and alternative/innovative sources and mechanisms of funding or that report having innovative financial projects in place.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report on exploring all possible sources of funding, including conventional and alternative /innovative sources and mechanisms of funding or that report having innovative financial projects in place.
41	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress, challenges in implementation, and requirements for assistance.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report on progress, challenges in implementation, and requirements for assistance.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to that report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to take advantage of the Individualised Approach.
42	Percentage of affected States Parties that report efforts to strengthen national coordination with national and international stakeholders and States Parties in a position to provide assistance.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report efforts to strengthen national coordination with national and international stakeholders and States Parties in a position to provide assistance.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a National Mine Action Platform.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report having established a National Mine Action Platform.
45	Number of States Parties that report sharing national experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt through international, regional, and bilateral cooperation.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report sharing national experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt through international, regional, and bilateral cooperation.
	Number of States Parties that report sharing scientific, methodological, and technological expertise to strengthen the Convention's implementation.						The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report sharing scientific, methodological, and technological expertise to strengthen the Convention's implementation.

