

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY MAURITANIA**

### **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. Mauritania reported that in 2024 it released 57,678 square metres of the Lewej2 minefield, including 42,104 square metres reduced and 15,574 square metres cleared.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Mauritania on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2023 updated workplan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Mauritania's 2023 updated workplan. The Committee welcomed Mauritania providing information on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed and the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee further welcomed Mauritania employing the Guide to Reporting in the drafting of its annual Article 7 report.
3. The committee also observed that Mauritania could improve clarity on progress by reporting in a disaggregated manner by type of contamination.

#### **II. Remaining challenge (Action 17, 20, 22)**

4. The Committee observed that Mauritania provided some clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge. Mauritania reported a remaining challenge measuring 22 mined areas measuring 22,312,046 square metres.
5. Action 17 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) requests States Parties that have not yet done so, to identify suspected hazardous areas (SHA) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) to the extent possible and establish 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 observed that Mauritania was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Mauritania on these efforts.
6. The Committee recalled that Mauritania's 2023 updated work plan contained information on Mauritania's efforts to identify accurate baselines of contamination using data- and evidence-based information collected in an inclusive manner, including a specific gender and diversity policy for the Programme National de Déminage Humanitaire pour le Développement (PNDHD) to guarantee equal opportunities, active engagement with community groups, including, nomads, herders, miners, fishers, and indigenous peoples. The Committee would welcome updated information from Mauritania on its efforts in this regard.

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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. Action 22 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to report in a manner consistent with IMAS. Provide information on the remaining challenge disaggregated by SHA and CHA, their relative size, type of contamination. The Committee encourages Mauritania to provide updated information on its efforts in this regard.

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

8. The Committee recalled that Mauritania has a national strategy in place for the period (2021-2026).
9. The Committee recalled that Mauritania's 2023 updated work plan contained a national evidence-based and costed plan for clearance and survey for the period (2023-2026).
10. The Committee recalled that Mauritania's 2023 updated work plan contained updates based on new evidence. Mauritania projected to address 4,097,318 square metres in 2025, and 2,192,930 square metres in 2026. The Committee encourages Mauritania to continue to provide updated annual adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including budgets for implementation, and requirements for assistance.
11. 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 Mauritania on its efforts in this regard.
12. 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 Mauritania on its efforts in this regard.
13. Mauritania reported on its efforts to outline a required training programme for improving organisational and operational components of PNDHD.
14. 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 Mauritania on its efforts in this regard.

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

15. Mauritania reported that its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) are up to date in accordance with IMAS to ensure efficient, effective, and safe operations. The Committee would welcome updated information on Mauritania's efforts in this regard.
16. Mauritania reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national, centrally managed information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation, including strengthened capacity by providing additional training to an information management specialist on the latest version of (IMSMA Core), subsequently creating a database specific to the PNDHD, which has resulted in the improvement of the information system.
17. 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 NMAS 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 Mauritania had reported that its survey and clearance efforts are carried out in accordance with IMAS, the Committee would welcome further information on Mauritania's 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)**

18. In considering Mauritania's request, the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) had requested Mauritania to submit updated information on an annual basis on several matters. The Committee welcomed the information provided in follow-up to the decision of the 19MSP.

19. The Committee also recalled that in granting Mauritania's 2021 extension request, the 19MSP requested Mauritania to the States Parties by 30 April 2023 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee recalled that Mauritania had acted on the decisions of the 19MSP by submitting an updated work plan to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties.

#### **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. These should include projections of the number of mined areas, size, and amount to be addressed annually, ensuring consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors, climate, and the environment to achieve completion as soon as possible. National work plans will be updated annually based on new evidence. The Committee would welcome further information on Mauritania's efforts to develop a work plan for mine risk education.

21. Mauritania reported on the implementation of mine risk education programmes, including information on how priorities were established, methodologies used, including; dissemination of messages to public, training for teachers, associations and local Non-Government Organisations (NGO)s, distribution of school notebooks, and risk education materials. Mauritania also reported on challenges faced, including need for financing risk education. The Committee encourages Mauritania to continue to report implementation of mine risk education programmes, including updated information on results achieved and include information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities.

22. Mauritania reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education and risk reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, including providing information to all relevant stakeholders in collaboration with administration authorities, local elected officials, NGOs, and indigenous people.

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 Mauritania reported on efforts to deliver risk education to target groups, including, herders, nomads, fishermen, and livestock breeders, the Committee would welcome updated information from Mauritania 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. Mauritania reported on its efforts to collaborate with administrative authorities and other actors, including training of teachers. The Committee encourages Mauritania to continue to provide updated information on its efforts in this regard.

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

25. The Committee recalled that Mauritania's 2023 updated work plan contained information on Mauritania's efforts 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, identify accurate baselines of contamination using data-and evidence-based information collected in an inclusive manner, including a specific gender and diversity policy for PNDHD to guarantee equal opportunities, and active engagement with community groups, including, nomads, herders, miners, fisherman and indigenous peoples. The Committee would welcome updated information from Mauritania on its efforts in this regard.

26. The Committee recalled that Mauritania's 2023 updated work plan contained information on Mauritania's efforts 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, including a specific gender and diversity policy for PNDHD to guarantee equal opportunities, active engagement with community groups, including, nomads, herders, miners, fisherman and indigenous peoples.

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 Mauritania 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 Mauritania on its efforts in this regard.

29. Mauritania reported on its efforts to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance including through annual Article 7 reports.

30. Mauritania reported the need to establish a national mine action authority to coordinate various humanitarian actors present in the country. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Mauritania and would welcome updates on the timeline and process for approving the establishment of the authority.

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 Mauritania on its efforts in this regard.

#### **IX. Challenges in implementation (Action 29, 41)**

32. Mauritania reported on challenges and requirements for assistance, including , including logistical support, organisational and operational support, and capacity building for PNDHDs central and Nouadhibou offices.

**The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan country reporting tracker**

**Article 5 Implementation**

**Mauritania**

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>Additional information requested from the Committee</b>
<b>#1</b>	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 further information on Mauritania's efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into: national development plans 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 further information on Mauritania's efforts to strengthen partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities with relevant sectors.
<b>#2</b>	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.						
<b>#3</b>	Percentage of affected States Parties that 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.						
<b>#4</b>	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having up-to-date National Mine Action Standards in place in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.						
<b>#5</b>	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.						
	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,						
<b>#6</b>	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 further information on Mauritania's efforts to integrate climate and environmental considerations into Convention implementation activities, including in their national strategies and work plans.
<b>#8</b>	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.						
<b>#9</b>	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 further information on Mauritania's efforts on having a national, centrally-managed information management system in place.

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 further information on Mauritania's 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.						
#18	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.						
	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 further information on Mauritania's 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 further information on Mauritania's 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.						
#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.						The Committee would welcome further information on Mauritania's efforts to 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.						The Committee would welcome further information on Mauritania's efforts to 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).						The Committee would welcome further information on Mauritania's efforts to 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 further information on Mauritania's 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.						
	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 further information on Mauritania's efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actio ns	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#18	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 further information from Mauritania on its efforts on 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.						The Committee would welcome further information on Mauritania's efforts to 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 further information on Mauritania's 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.						
#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 further information on Mauritania's efforts to establish 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.						
#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.						



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 further information on Mauritania's efforts to make 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 further information on Mauritania's efforts to report on exploring all possible sources of funding.
41	Percentage of affected States Parties that 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 further information on Mauritania's efforts on having a resource mobilisation plan in place.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that have taken 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.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a National Mine Action Platform.						The Committee would welcome further information from Mauritania on its efforts to establish 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 further information on Mauritania's efforts on having established a National Mine Action Platform.
	Number of States Parties that report sharing scientific, methodological, and technological expertise to strengthen the Convention's implementation.						The Committee would welcome further information on Mauritania's efforts to strengthen the Convention's implementation.

