

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SRI LANKA

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. Sri Lanka reported that in 2024, it released 164 ‘safe zones’¹ measuring 6,052,907 square metres, including 53,735 square metres cancelled, 999,264 square metres reduced, and 4,999,908 square metres cleared, destroying 1,407 anti-personnel mines, 15 anti-tank mines, and 1,345 items of other explosive ordnance.
2. Sri Lanka also reported that as of 30 April 2025, ‘completion survey’ (non-technical survey) is being implemented throughout all Grame Niladaree Divisions (GN) (Sri Lanka’s Smallest Administrative Boundary), to identify any previously unknown explosive ordnance. As a result of the survey 1,030 GN were identified as not containing any known contamination with explosive ordnance and 353 GN were identified for follow up visits. Sri Lanka also reported that as a result of the survey a total of 230 new hazard areas measuring 6,700,080 square metres were identified, including, 188 hazard areas measuring 6,174,194 square metres in Northern Province, 37 hazard areas measuring 469,529 square metres in Eastern Province, and 5 hazard areas measuring 56,357 square metres in NCP and NWP Provinces.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Sri Lanka on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its initial Article 7 transparency report. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Sri Lanka’s 2024 Article 7 report. The Committee encourages Sri Lanka to provide information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by type of contamination. The Committee further welcomed Sri Lanka employing the Guide to Reporting in the drafting of its annual Article 7 report.

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

5. The Committee observed that Sri Lanka provided clarity² concerning its remaining challenge. Sri Lanka reported a remaining challenge of 840 mined areas measuring 23,195,088 square metres, including 634 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 17,646,604 square metres, and 206 suspected hazardous areas (SHA), measuring 5,548,484 square metres.
6. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Sri Lanka and encourages Sri Lanka to continue to provide updated information and clarity concerning remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by SHAs and CHAs in line with Action 22.

¹ Sri Lanka defines a safe zone as, “an area free from the suspected presence of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), to be used for normal human activities”.

² “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 and districts including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel and the size of the areas.

7. Action 17 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) requests States Parties that have not yet done so, to identify SHAs and CHAs 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 Sri Lanka, through implementation of its completion survey, was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on these efforts.
8. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to identify accurate baselines of contamination using data-and evidence-based information collected in an inclusive manner, including Inclusive and Transparent completion survey, as a strategic objective in its National Mine Action Completion Strategy to facilitate Article 5 completion. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.

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

9. Sri Lanka reported having an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategy in place for the period of 2023-2027.
10. Sri Lanka reported having an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound work plan for clearance in place for 2025, including updates based on new evidence. Sri Lanka projected to release 196 hazardous areas measuring 5,889,880 square meters, located in Northern, Eastern, and NCP provinces. Sri Lanka also reported that as the completion survey is ongoing, there is a possibility of discovering additional, previously unknown contaminated areas, and as a result, projections may vary. Sri Lanka further reported that in June 2024, the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) will analyse various completion scenarios together international stakeholders and operators, based on the remaining contamination and available funding to determine a realistic Article 5 completion date, based on updated contamination and funding information. The Committee encourages Sri Lanka to provide updated information on its efforts in this regard.
11. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts 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 a strategic objective on implementation of an inclusive and transparent completion survey. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.
12. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, partnership and coordination, by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, strategies and budgets, as appropriate, including the maintenance of strong national ownership as a strategic objective in its Mine Action Strategy, to ensure that its structures are well equipped and resourced, including coordination with including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security, and Community Empowerment. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.
13. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to establish sustainable national capacities able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme, including the management of residual contamination as a strategic objective in its Mine Action Strategy. Sri Lanka has identified Sri Lankan Army (SLA) Humanitarian Demining Units (HDU) as responsible for managing residual contamination. Sri Lanka also reported the inclusion of Staff Transition as a strategic objective in its National Mine Action Completion Strategy, comprising three phases, which are structured to be

implemented before and during the gradual demobilisation of staff, continuing until the completion of clearance and phase out.

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

14. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to keep National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with IMAS to ensure efficient, effective, and safe operations. The Committee would welcome Sri Lanka providing updated information on its efforts to ensure NMAS are up to date with IMAS.

15. Sri Lanka 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 equipping the SLA HDU in IMSMA Core to ensure a smooth transition to residual contamination management. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.

16. Sri Lanka reported on efforts to improve the effectiveness of survey and clearance, highlighting that effective mine clearance resulted in a significant reduction in casualties. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.

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

17. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to coordinate risk education activities through collaboration between the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) and the Regional Mine Action Office (RMAO), and that these institutions play a central role in planning, prioritising, and supervising the implementation of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities across affected areas. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts to develop a develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education.

18. Sri Lanka reported on the implementation of mine risk education programmes, including information on how priorities were established, including prioritisation guided by; community requests, incident data and risk assessments to ensure that available resources are directed towards the most vulnerable and at-risk populations. Sri Lanka also reported on methodologies used, including; stand-alone risk education sessions, distribution of printed materials, and use of entertainment-based approaches. Sri Lanka further reported on results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities.

19. 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 Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.

20. 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 would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.

21. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to deliver mine risk education programmes, including strengthening a sustainable risk education structure to promote safe behaviour and inform communities about risks and reporting procedures with the anticipated completion of all known contaminated areas by the end of 2027. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.

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

22. Sri Lanka reported on its 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, including a strategic objective on Inclusive and Transparent completion survey, in its National Mine Action Completion Strategy. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.

23. 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 Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.

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

24. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts 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. Sri Lanka reported that the contribution from the Government of Sri Lanka of LKR 60.9 million, of which 65% was utilized by the Sri Lanka Army Humanitarian Demining Unit (SLA HDU) for demining operations, including vehicle fleet management. The Committee would welcome Sri Lanka providing updated information on its resource mobilisation strategy.

25. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance including through annual Article 7 reports, including additional technical and financial assistance to accelerate clearance efforts to achieve its Article 5 obligations.

26. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to strengthen national level coordination including the central role of the NMAC in coordinate with the Government of Sri Lanka, international donor, operators, and other partners. Sri Lanka also reported that NMAC organises coordination meetings, workshops, and technical working meetings.

27. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to explore opportunities for international, regional, and bilateral cooperation including successfully convened two donor coordination meetings and two completion survey workshops. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sri Lanka on its efforts in this regard.

IX. Challenges in implementation (Action 29, 41)

28. Sri Lanka reported on its efforts to report on challenges and requirements for assistance, including the discovery of previously unknown mine contamination, many of the recorded minefields in the national database turned out to be larger than expected, operators have noted that for every 2 square meters cleared, an additional of 1 square meter has been identified, the financial crisis and the COVID pandemic resulted in operational breaks and a significant increase in fuel prices, fluctuation in foreign exchange rates, and a reduction in international funding (9% reduction in

2024 compared to 2023, a reduction of funding to the Sri Lankan Army Humanitarian Demining Units resulted in fewer operational teams being deployed and limited purchases of new equipment, and that operators are struggling to retain staff in mine affected areas due to significant numbers migrating for financial reasons with uncertainty around continued employment.

The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan country reporting tracker							
Article 5 Implementation							
Sri Lanka							
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.						
	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.						
#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.						
#3	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.						
#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 further information on Sri Lanka’s efforts to 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,						
#6	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 Sri Lanka’s efforts to integrate climate and environmental considerations into Convention implementation activities, including in their national strategies and work plans.
#8	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 further information on Sri Lanka's efforts on 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	2030	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.						
	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						
#19	Number of affected States Parties that 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.						
	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.						
#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 further information on Sri Lanka's 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 Sri Lanka's efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Action	Indicators	2025	2026	2030	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;						
#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 Sri Lanka'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 Sri Lanka'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.						The Committee would welcome further information on Sri Lanka's efforts to reduce the affected population's risk-taking behaviour and to increase knowledge and awareness.
#30	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 Sri Lanka'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.						The Committee would welcome further information on Sri Lanka's efforts on 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	2030	2028	2029
#40	Percentage of affected States Parties that 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.					
#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 updated information on Sri Lanka'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.					
#45	Number of States Parties that 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.					

