

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

### **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. Tajikistan reported that in 2024, it addressed 25 mined areas measuring 1,700,026 square metres in 2 regions, including 640,691 square metres cancelled, 643,212 square metres reduced, and 415,853 square metres cleared, destroying 2,777 anti-personnel mines and 120 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO).
2. Tajikistan also reported that it conducted re-survey on 23 minefields, including 11 confirmed minefields, resulting in the identification of 383,203 square metres of mined area. Tajikistan further reported the identification of 7 new battle areas measuring 1,730,000 square metres.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Tajikistan 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 Tajikistan's 2023 updated workplan. The Committee encourages Tajikistan to continue to report 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 welcomed Tajikistan employing the Guide to Reporting in the drafting of its annual Article 7 report.

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

4. The Committee observed that Tajikistan provided a high degree of clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge. Tajikistan reported a remaining challenge of 111 minefields, including 109 confirmed minefields measuring 6,132,708 square metres, and 2 suspected minefields measuring 621,000 square metres.
5. The Committee encourages Tajikistan to provide updated information and clarity concerning the remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) in line with Action 22.
6. 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 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 Tajikistan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Tajikistan on these efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> "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), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "known" or "suspected"), information on the geographic location of each area.

7. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to identify accurate baselines of contamination in an inclusive manner, including, a commitment to integrate gender perspectives into its mine action programme, informing local authorities and populations about mine clearance operations, and that demining organisations are required to retain operational reports, including monthly records of local community briefings.

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

8. The Committee recalled that Tajikistan has an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategy in place for the period of 2021-2030.
9. Tajikistan reported having an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plan in place for the period of 2025-2026, including updates based on new evidence. Tajikistan projected to address 20 minefields in 3 regions, measuring 650,055 square metres in 2025, including 2 minefields measuring 332,399 square metres in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, 17 minefields measuring 267,656 square metres in Khatlon region, and 1 minefield measuring 50,000 square metres in Central Region (Direct Rule District). Tajikistan also projected to address 7 minefields measuring 819,300 square metres in 2026, including 3 minefields measuring 140,800 square metres in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, and 4 minefields measuring 678,500 square metres in Khatlon region.
10. Tajikistan 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 mine survivors, and the environment, including priority criteria involving, economic and infrastructure impacts, proximity to communities, requests from Government and local authorities, and impact terrain, seasonal variations, and accessibility on operations. Tajikistan further reported the engagement of Tajikistan's Border Forces on the safety of accessing mined areas located in certain border areas.
11. The Committee recalled that Tajikistan's 2023 updated workplan contained information 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 Tajikistan Government Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIHL), a multi-sectoral entity that oversees the implementation of Tajikistan's mine action strategy, that also links to the Government of Tajikistan's economic and infrastructure development priorities. The Committee would welcome updated information on its efforts in this regard.
12. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to establish sustainable national capacities able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme, including the role of CIHL, and NMAC. Tajikistan also reported on the deployment of Humanitarian Demining Companies of the Ministry of Defence (HDC MoD) and the Survey and Demining teams of the Union of Sappers of Tajikistan (UST).

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

13. Tajikistan 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, including, regular quality assurance conducted by the NMAC on training and land release in accordance with NMAS. The

Committee would welcome updated information from Tajikistan from its efforts ensure NMAS are updated in accordance with IMAS.

14. Tajikistan 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 daily reports submitted from demining organisations to the IMSMA database.

15. Tajikistan reported on efforts to improve the effectiveness of survey and clearance, including that an analysis of land clearance, and challenges, including inaccessibility, mountainous terrain and climate conditions, necessitates an increase in the modernisation of mine action operations, equipment and introduction of new methodologies. The Committee would welcome updated information on Tajikistan efforts to apply the outcomes of this analysis to improving the effectiveness of survey and clearance activities.

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

16. In considering Tajikistan's 2019 extension request, the Fourth Review Conference (4RC) requested Tajikistan 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 4RC.

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

17. The Committee recalled that Tajikistan's 2023 updated work plan, contained information on its efforts to implement mine risk education programmes, including information on how priorities were established, including, integration into survey and clearance priorities, and that local authorities and the population are informed about all land release activities in their areas in the form of Official Letters from TNMAC to local authorities, including risk education sessions. The Committee would welcome updated information from Tajikistan on its efforts in this regard.

18. Tajikistan also reported on the methodologies used, including, a range of risk education and community liaison activities carried out in dangerous areas. The Committee recalled that Tajikistan's 2019 extension request contained information on the following methodologies for risk education to be used during the extension period (2019-2026), including, public and targeted lectures and presentations, exhibitions, TV cartoon, theatre plays, art workshops, distribution of educational materials to elementary schools and other projects at the state and local level. The Committee would welcome updated information from Tajikistan on its efforts in this regard.

19. Tajikistan further reported on challenges faced, including geographical and seasonal impacts that limit the ability of risk education teams to reach all population groups living near contaminated areas.

20. Action 29 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to report on the implementation of mine risk education programmes, including results achieved and include information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities. The Committee would welcome updated information from Tajikistan on its efforts in this regard.

21. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education and risk reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, including integration of risk education with non-technical survey and clearance teams. The Committee would welcome updated information on Tajikistan's efforts to integrate risk education into humanitarian response and protection plans.

22.The Committee recalled that Tajikistan's 2023 updated workplan contained information on Tajikistan's efforts 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, including prioritisation of minefields closest to villages and other areas important to support livelihoods. Tajikistan also reported that warning signs are installed in local languages in visible zones and approaches accessible to local residents. The Committee would welcome updated information from Tajikistan on its efforts in this regard.

23.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 Tajikistan on its efforts in this regard.

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

24.Tajikistan 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 commitment to integrate gender perspectives into its mine action programme, informing local authorities and populations about mine clearance operations, and that demining organisations are required to retain operational reports, including monthly records of local community briefings.

25.Tajikistan reported on its 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 the formation of a working group on gender and diversity established in May 2024 to provide guidance and support for the integration of gender perspectives into all aspects of programme policies and practices, provide technical expertise, strategic advice and ensure coordination on gender and diversity.

26.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 Tajikistan on its efforts in this regard.

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

27.Tajikistan 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, including contributions from the Government of Tajikistan of US \$66,020 for mine action activities and US \$500,000 allocated for technical and non-technical survey.

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

29. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to strengthen national level coordination including, the review, planning, and approval of NMAC's annual work plans involving members of the CIIHL, representatives from various ministries and government agencies, the diplomatic corps and international organisations operating in Tajikistan, with the work plan approved by the CIIHL and signed by the First Deputy Prime Minister. Tajikistan also reported that monthly technical meetings are conducted involving, demining organisations, the leadership of engineering units from the Ministry of Defence, Border Troops of the State Committee for National Security, the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, and the National Guard, with the aim to ensure ongoing operational alignment and information sharing.
30. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to explore opportunities for international, regional, and bilateral cooperation including international cooperation with the United States, Norway, Switzerland, the GICHD, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the United Nations.
31. Tajikistan also reported that several bilateral initiatives were undertaken during the reporting period between Tajikistan and Croatia, and the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA).
32. Tajikistan further reported its efforts to strengthen cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and that TNMAC in collaboration with OSCE conducted several regional trainings on explosive ordnance disposal at Level 1, 2, and 3, with participants from Ukraine, Mongolia and Tajikistan.

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

33. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to report on challenges and requirements for assistance, including several challenges and requirements for achieving its 2025-2026 targets and overall clearance by 2032, difficult terrain and climate, the need to increase national demining capacities, funding and the need to implement new methodologies for demining as well as addressing suspected mined areas located near the Tajik-Uzbek border.

The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan country reporting tracker							
Article 5 Implementation							
Tajikistan							
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.						The Committee would welcome updated information on Tajikistan's efforts to 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.						The Committee would welcome updated information on Tajikistan's efforts to 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.
#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.						The Committee would welcome further information on Tajikistan's efforts on 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.						
	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 Tajikistan'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.						

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 from Tajikistan on its efforts to establish an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline.
	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.						The Committee would welcome further information on Tajikistan'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.						
	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.						
	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 Tajikistan's efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Action s	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 Tajikistan 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.						



#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 Tajikistan'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 Tajikistan'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 Tajikistan'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.						The Committee would welcome further information on Tajikistan's efforts to report on 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;						
	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.						
	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.					

