

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ZIMBABWE

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. Zimbabwe reported that in 2024, it addressed 19 ‘sectors’ measuring 4,388,172 square metres including 2,440,198 square metres reduced, and 1,947,974 square metres cleared, resulting in the destruction of 31,672 anti-personnel mines, and 19 other items of unexploded ordnance (UXO).
2. Zimbabwe also reported that re-survey identified an additional 233,374 square metres during the reporting period.
3. Zimbabwe reported completion of the Rusitu to Muzite minefield during the reporting period and awaits official handover in 2025.
4. The Committee observed that the information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its Article 7 report submitted in 2024. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Zimbabwe’s 2024 Article 7 report. The Committee encourages Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe provided a high degree of clarity concerning¹ its remaining challenge. Zimbabwe reported a remaining challenge of 60 ‘sectors’ in 4 mined areas measuring 11,999,499 square metres, including 20 ‘sectors’ of the Musengezi to Mazoe mined area measuring 1,809,661 square metres, 10 ‘sectors’ of the Mazoe to Rwenya mined areas measuring 3,456,201 square metres, 7 ‘sectors’ of the Mazowe to Nyahuku mined area measuring 2,164,834 square metres, 11 ‘sectors’ of the Nyahuku to Nyamapanda mined area measuring 2,941,201 square metres, 2 ‘sectors’ of the Mwenezi to Sango Border Post mined area measuring 500,103 square metres, and 7 ‘sectors’ of the Lusulu mined area measuring 797,363 square metres.
6. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported an accurate baseline of contamination using data and evidence-based information collected in an inclusive manner, including gender and considers the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in its national strategy.

¹ “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.

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

7. Zimbabwe reported having an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategy in place for the period of 2018-2025.
8. Zimbabwe reported having in place an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategy for survey and clearance in place and developed in an inclusive manner for the period of 2018-2025. Zimbabwe projects to address 3,870,000 square metres in 2025, 2,076,402 square metres in 2026, 1,676,000 square metres in the period 2027-2028, 1,585,495 square metres in 2029, and 1,116,239 in 2030.
9. Zimbabwe 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, active engagement with communities living near minefields, and for survivors and their representative organisations to be included in programmes related to humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and conflict preparedness and protection. The Committee would welcome updated information on Zimbabwe's efforts in this regard.
10. Zimbabwe 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, and that it is awaiting feedback on submissions to include mine action in the national development goals. Zimbabwe also reported that, in principle, the mine action programme falls under the category of emancipating remote communities and ensuring improved livelihoods. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Zimbabwe and would welcome updated information on the timeline and approval process for the national development plan.
11. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to establish sustainable national capacities able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme, and that the National Mine Clearance Units (NMCU), as a military entity was established after independence and will continue to exist even after all demining organizations have departed.

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

12. Zimbabwe 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 an update in quarter 4 of the reporting period.
13. Zimbabwe 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.
14. Zimbabwe reported on efforts to improve the effectiveness of survey and clearance, providing the completion of Rusitu to Muzite minefield as evidence of its effective approach. Zimbabwe also reported on the use of a 'demining tools box approach' including manual, mechanical, and mine detection dogs as clearance methods.

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

15. In considering Zimbabwe's 2017 extension request, the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) requested Zimbabwe 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 16MSP.
16. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had also acted on the decisions of the 16MSP by providing information on progress on Zimbabwe's commitment to relocate the ZIMAC outside of military installations which it successfully accomplished.

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

17. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategy for mine risk education in an inclusive manner, including risk education remaining a key note of its national mine action strategy. The Committee would welcome updated information from Zimbabwe on its efforts in this regard.
18. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education in an inclusive manner, including risk education as part of its updated 2025-2030 work plan.
19. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to implement mine risk education programmes, including information on how priorities were established, including for all populations at risk as part of operators survey and clearance activities. Zimbabwe also reported on the methodologies used, including, workshops targeting local communities and schools, and snap sessions for those who pass mined areas into other nations, school sessions, community sessions, mine awareness soccer tournaments, mine awareness musical galas and EOD sessions, and face to face and small media methods also used to communicate with the targeted audiences. Zimbabwe further reported on its efforts to implement mine risk education programmes, including challenges faced, such as the need to ensure a comprehensive reach of its risk education programme to all residents, even for those living far from mined areas.
20. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education and risk reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, including submission of mine action to be included in the national development plan, and that the process of integrating risk education into the school curriculum has started. Zimbabwe also reported that risk education is being undertaken by all operators to educate people in mine affected areas on the dangers of mines and the teams take advantage of community developmental and social gatherings to disseminate information.
21. Zimbabwe reported on its 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 efforts to address the following risk factors; ignorance of physical appearance of mines and their dangers, myths of mercury existence in mines, straying into mined areas, unsafe practices such as throwing stones at or picking mines, and failure to report to the relevant authorities.
22. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to establish national capacities to deliver mine risk education, including the role of the Zimbabwe National Army engineers to consistently bring risk education to every province in the country, and that progress has been made in making explosive ordnance

risk education activities more sustainable, with the establishment of risk education community volunteer focal points in all explosive ordnance impacted areas.

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

23. Zimbabwe 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, inclusion of gender and considers the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in its National Mine Action Completion Strategy.
24. Zimbabwe 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 active engagement with communities living near minefields, and for survivors and their representative organisations to be included in programmes related to humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and conflict preparedness protect. The Committee would welcome updated information on Zimbabwe's efforts in this regard.
25. 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 Zimbabwe on its efforts in this regard.

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

26. Zimbabwe 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 seeking partnerships with international mine action stakeholders and donors to support resource mobilisation effort for humanitarian and early recovery efforts.
27. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to develop resource mobilisation plans, and that the Communication and Resource Mobilisation Strategic Plan 2019-2025 and the reviewed National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2018-2025 were launched during the National Dialogue on Mine Action, which was held in January, 2023.
28. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance including through annual Article 7 reports.
29. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to strengthen national level coordination, including hosting a quarterly all stakeholders meeting in an effort to strengthen national coordination with national stakeholders on implementation progress, challenges encountered and areas requiring support. Zimbabwe reported collaboration with international organisations, non-government organisations, and other stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise and working to mobilise resources from local authorities sources, including Government Ministries: collaboration among ministries, such as Health, Education, and Social Welfare. National Authorities: The Zimbabwe Mine Office and other national authorities. International Organisations: Partnerships with organizations like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to leverage expertise and resources.
30. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to explore opportunities for international, regional, and bilateral cooperation including, that Zimbabwe cooperates with other States Parties to the Anti-Personnel

Mine Ban Convention to share best practices and receive support. This coordination enables Zimbabwe to mobilise resources, expertise, and support for victim assistance and mine action efforts.

IX. Challenges in implementation (Action 29, 41)

31. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to report on challenges and requirements for assistance, including amongst others, the closure of APOPO, and a 50% capacity drop for HALO Trust after laying off 15 teams from the initial 30 teams as of March 2024. Zimbabwe reported that, with no new immediate funding opportunities, completion of its Article 5 deadline becomes extremely unattainable before 2030.
32. Zimbabwe reported that it is open to suggestions from the global community to help with the implementation of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan and will keep working on this strategy with both domestic and international partners, and that organisations will continue to work with communities to find solutions to lessen the number of cattle that stray into these areas even though clearance is moving along nicely to completely eliminate the risk.

The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan country reporting tracker							
Article 5 Implementation							
Zimbabwe							
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 further information on Zimbabwe's efforts to report integrating 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.						
#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.						
#37	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.						
	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 Zimbabwe'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 370 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.					
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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.						
	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.						

#237	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.						

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actions	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 on Zimbabwe's efforts to include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for risk education activities.
#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.						
	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.						
#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;						
	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.						

