

**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

**Conclusions Committee on Article 5
implementation (Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland
and Zambia)**

Addendum

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5

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Afghanistan

I. Progress in implementation

1. Afghanistan reported that in 2016 it released 267 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing 30,626,136 square metres, 27,121,910 square metres cleared, 449,116 square metres reduced and 3,055,110 square metres cancelled, and destroying 13,869 anti-personnel mines, 443 anti-tank mines, and 10 abandoned improvised explosive device (AIED) and 148,131 items of unexploded ordnance. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Afghanistan was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

2. The Committee concluded that the information provided allowed for comparability with that provided in 2015 as well as milestones in Afghanistan's 2012 extension request. The Committee noted that between April 2013 and 31 December 2016, the number of confirmed (CHA) and suspected hazardous areas (SHA) had been reduced from 3,439 to 2,485 and the total area from 266.4 square kilometres to 232.1 square kilometres.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of each area according to the seven contaminate regions of the country. Afghanistan reported that 2,164 CHAs totalling 147,664,998 square metres and 321 SHAs measuring 84,449,815 square metres remain to be addressed.

4. The Committee noted that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and other explosive remnants of war also pose extreme risks to the civilian population and to the implementation of development activities. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Afghanistan's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Afghanistan. The Committee noted the importance of Afghanistan continuing to disaggregate the challenge of anti-personnel mine contamination.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. Afghanistan provided a detailed plan in its 2012 extension request leading towards completion, with it clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee noted that progress in 2016 did not reach projection outputs for clearance and survey.

6. The Committee noted the commitment of Afghanistan to review the work plan on a continuous basis and that Afghanistan and the States Parties as a whole would benefit if Afghanistan could inform the States Parties of changes to the work plan.

7. The Committee recalled its 2016 conclusions that Afghanistan reported at the end of 2015 a total of 2,578 hazardous areas measuring a total area 239,464,868 square metres remaining to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee noted that at the beginning of the current reporting period, January 2016, Afghanistan reported a total number of hazardous areas to be 2,752 measuring 251,070,035 square metres.

8. The Committee noted that Afghanistan provided an updated projection of outputs for clearance and survey in each of the seven administrative regions contaminated with anti-personnel mines from 2017 to 2022, with an overall goal for Afghanistan to address 2,017 confirmed and suspect hazardous areas measuring 209,252,432 square metres, as follows: 69,349,672 square metres to be addressed in 2017, 41,199,630 square metres to be addressed in 2018, 39,049,860 square metres to be addressed in 2019, 24,663,980 square metres to be addressed in 2020, 32,007,511 square metres to be addressed in 2021 and 2,981,779 square metres to be addressed in 2022.

9. The Committee noted that, while Afghanistan anticipates releasing a considerable amount of area and number of areas annually leading to its deadline in 2022, the number of areas, (2,017) and amount of area (209,252,432 square metres), falls short of the number of areas (2,485) and amount of area, (232,114,813 square metres), that Afghanistan has reported as remaining to be addressed. In this regard Committee welcomes annual updates on the impact of new hazards and re-survey on current capacities, annual clearance and survey plans. It would be welcome if Afghanistan could indicate how future work plan and budget projections take into consideration changes in these milestones.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

10. Afghanistan reported that the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS 05.01 Land Release) were amended and updated in July 2013 right after the release of the IMAS 07.11 for land release. These AMAS were reviewed by the AMAS Review Board and approved for application in Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). Subsequently, the SOPs of all demining organisations have been revised based on the requirements of these new AMAS and approved by DMAC. The Committee noted that Afghanistan had attached the relevant AMAS chapter to their report.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

11. The Committee recalled that the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Afghanistan to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan was acting upon the decisions of the 12MSP by providing updates relative to annual milestones for progress as contained in its extension request.

12. Afghanistan provided an update of its Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) that has been conducted in 285 districts covering 22,751 communities from which 1,297 communities were already impacted and 21,454 communities were unknown. The Committee concluded that further information on the impact of survey results on Afghanistan's annual work plan would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

13. Afghanistan reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that this included ensuring appropriate marking of hazardous areas, as well as providing mine risk education (MRE) to people living in the mine- and other ERW-impacted communities, with a specific focus on returnees and internally displaced people.

14. The Committee noted the challenges in the implementation of risk education including insecurity that limits access to some areas, and inadequate funds that prevent risk education programmes reaching all targeted populations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Progress in implementation

15. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2016, 58.67 square kilometres of suspected hazardous area was released (46.95 square kilometres cancelled through non-technical survey, 10.39 square kilometres reduced through technical survey and 1.33 square kilometres released through clearance) destroying 1,313 anti-personnel mines, 63 anti-tank mines and 1,192 explosive remnants of war.

16. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina continuing to provide information on progress disaggregated according to areas released through clearance, reduction or cancellation. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

17. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 19,283 “minefield records” remain to be addressed disaggregated according to three entities/districts. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that there are 4,285 “locations” known to contain mines with an estimated 73,483 mine and unexploded ordnance and an estimated area of 315.75 square kilometres. Additionally, 8,636 “locations” are suspected of containing mines with an estimation of more than 73,483 mines and UXO and an estimated area of 1,091 square kilometres. In this regard, the Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Bosnia and Herzegovina used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with IMAS.

18. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations as well as their estimated contamination.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

19. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a summary of its plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline. That plan indicated how much area, aggregated to the national level, would be released each year according to various activities. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided an updated summary of milestones to be achieved in the period of 2017-2018 indicating that a total of 255.2 square kilometres is to be addressed with 165 square kilometres estimated to be cancelled, 76.56 square kilometres to be reduced and 13.64 square kilometres to be cleared.

20. The Committee observed that the amount of area to be addressed represents a sharp increase from 2016 and would welcome information on the reason for this estimated increase. The Committee further observed that following 2018 approximately 835.8 square kilometres would remain to be addressed. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the plan to address contaminated areas including the specific geographical location where activities will take place.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

21. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted three chapters within its standards: non-technical survey (in accordance with IMAS 08.10), technical survey (targeted technical survey and systematic technical survey in accordance with IMAS 8.20) and Land Release (in accordance with IMAS 7.11). Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) has commenced amendments and annexes for all chapters of Standards for Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Standing Operational Procedures for Humanitarian Demining.

22. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina would benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee

concluded that it would welcome further information on efforts to update its national standards.

23. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that a draft Demining Law has been shared for public consultation and forwarded to the Council of Ministers for adoption. The BHMAC also initiated the process of drafting its Exit Strategy of Mine Action (2019-2025) to be adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2017.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

24. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested that Bosnia and Herzegovina provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP noted that, while the plan presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina's request was workable and ambitious, its success was contingent upon increased performance in technical survey, a high level of donor funding and the sustained and increasing availability of funds provided by local government. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina was making advances in efforts to increase its survey performance. The Committee concluded that increased clarity on how these factors may be impacting implementation would be welcome.

25. The Committee concluded that increased clarity on remaining mined areas in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

26. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine risk education programmes and the creation and distribution of mine situation maps.

Cambodia

I. Progress in implementation

27. Cambodia reported that in 2016, 132,284,116 square metres of land was addressed, destroying in the process 13,049 anti-personnel mines. Cambodia reported that from 1992 to December 2016 a total of 1,544,958,524 square metres has been addressed destroying in the process 1,036,376 anti-personnel mines, 24,251 anti-tank mines and 2,660,638 UXOs.

28. Cambodia also reported that in 2016 baseline survey was on-going in 21 districts, identifying 549 polygons measuring 81,830,520 square metres. During the same period, Cambodia reported to address 15 hazardous areas measuring 328,589 square metres in 4 districts. Cambodia reported that as of December 2016, 471 polygons measuring 69,223,336 square metres in 20 districts-the district of Svay Leu was not included in the final table on baseline survey-remained to be addressed by the baseline survey.

29. The Committee encourages Cambodia to report progress in baseline survey using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee concluded that Cambodia could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

30. The Committee noted that Cambodia provided some clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table with precise perimeters and locations of areas known

anti-personnel mines. Cambodia reported a total of 17,652 hazardous areas remaining, totalling 2,342,137,953 square metres.

31. The Committee noted that the Baseline Survey is on-going until 2020. The Committee concluded that, with the baseline survey ongoing, Cambodia's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas, size and status of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

32. The Committee concluded that Cambodia could significantly increase clarity, by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on "the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey". The Committee further concluded that Cambodia could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

33. Cambodia reported that it was developing a new National Mine Action Strategy 2017-2025 which aims to provide better comprehensive directions for mine action in Cambodia. The Committee concluded that, given that the Baseline Survey resulted in significantly more area having been identified than anticipated, an updated work plan with updated projections of areas and area to be released leading to Cambodia's 1 January 2020 deadline would be required.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

34. In its 2009 extension request, Cambodia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the IMAS. The Committee noted as it did in its 2016 conclusions that, since Cambodia submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee concluded that information on any amendments made to Cambodia's standards in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

35. Cambodia reported that the remaining contaminated land will be released through fully complied land release methodology, especially application of non-technical survey, estimated roughly 35% of the total release. In this regard the Committee underlines the need to provide more clarity with regard to which areas are known to contain mines and those who are suspected to contain them. The Committee further recalled that, given the sizeable increase in area identified by the Baseline Survey, any additional information on methods used to reduce or cancel areas would be welcome.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

36. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had requested Cambodia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee noted that Cambodia had acted upon the commitments made in its extension request to carry out the Baseline Survey and report the findings to the States Parties. The Committee further noted as it did in its 2016 conclusions that, based on the results of the Baseline Survey, a single national updated work plan, schedule and budget leading towards its extended deadline of 1 January 2020 taking into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators, would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

37. Cambodia reported in detail on nine main actors involved in providing Mine Risk Education and the actions individually and collectively taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The programmes include the use of sports as well as being integrated into mine action activities. Cambodia reported that it is currently developing an MRE Action Plan, (2017-2025) which will include a review of MRE materials and messages to ensure their ongoing appropriateness and effectiveness.

Croatia

I. Progress in implementation

38. Croatia reported that in 2016 it addressed a total of 41,468,445 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 38,263,980 square metres cleared as well as 3,204,465 square metres reduced and cancelled. These efforts resulted in the destruction of 1,536 anti-personnel mines, 542 anti-vehicle mines and 11,780 UXOs. In addition, the Croatian Armed Forces reported the clearance of an area of military facilities measuring 454,917 square metres.

39. The Committee concluded that Croatia could more clearly present implementation progress by using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

40. The Committee concluded that Croatia had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing the number of remaining CHAs and SHAs according to 10 counties and military facilities. Croatia reported that, as of the end of 2016, “mine suspected areas”, totalling approximately 446 square kilometres remained to be addressed. The Committee would welcome clarity on Croatia’s remaining challenge given that at the end of 2015 a total of 467.4 square kilometres remained to be addressed and that over the course of 2016 it addressed 41.5 square kilometres.

41. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of the remaining CHAs and SHAs in each county, with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”) and information on the geographic location of each area. In this context, the Committee would find it valuable if Croatia could clarify the status of the military facilities (i.e. are they included in the number of 446 square kilometres of “mine suspected areas”) and also clarify if the “mine suspected areas” include both SHA and CHA.

42. The Committee also concluded that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

43. Croatia provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion with this plan clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide an updated projection of the number of areas and amount of area to be cleared and reduced in each region and in each year between 2017 and 2019.

44. In 2016, Croatia reported its ongoing project financed by the European Union continues to target known minefields located in the forest areas. These areas have been identified as priority by local and regional governments.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

45. The Committee recalled that in its 2008 extension request, Croatia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards based on the IMAS. The Committee also recalled that in October 2015, the Croatian Parliament adopted a new law regulating mine action, giving the Croatian Mine Action Centre more possibilities to reduce SHAs by using technical survey which was not possible under the previous law and that new regulations and SOPs are currently being elaborated which will prescribe in detail how mine action activities will take place in the field. As in its 2016 conclusion, the Committee concluded that information on these new regulations and SOPs would be welcome.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

46. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Croatia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled specifically that the 9MSP had requested Croatia to provide updates on its methodology to address SHAs in forested areas. Croatia reported that it has so far prioritised its clearance operations on areas that will enable the return of displaced people and economic development. At the same time, Croatia is working on technology for hyperspectral non-technical survey employing unmanned aerial vehicles with the aim to better analyse and define SHAs in forested areas. As in its 2016 conclusions, the Committee concluded that further information on this effort would be welcomed.

VI. Mine risk reduction

47. Croatia has reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through MRE programmes. Croatia has reported that it works with a number of diverse organisations to spread safety messages which seek to inform as many citizens at local and national levels as possible.

Cyprus

I. Progress in implementation

48. Cyprus reported in 2012 that the sole circumstance that impeded its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas reported to be under its jurisdiction or control – namely that Cyprus had indicated that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question – has not changed and that Cyprus was not aware of any progress that has occurred. In total, between entry into force of the Convention and its original 1 July 2013 deadline, Cyprus has addressed all 20 mined areas under its effective control.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

49. Cyprus reported that, since July 2013, there are no anti-personnel mines on territory under the effective control of Cyprus. Cyprus reported that the only known mined areas are located in the part of its territory outside of its effective control and that at least 20 mined

areas are yet to be cleared of anti-personnel mines, with one of these areas located within the buffer zone, in the vicinity of the village Deryneia.

50. Cyprus reported that it has taken concrete steps to ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in minefields and submitted to UNFICYP information on 28 known mined areas and that, according to information released by UNFICYP, those 28 minefields were subject to non-technical survey by UNMAS, and according to its assessment only 3 of them require further technical survey.

III. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

51. The Committee recalled the ongoing importance, as noted by the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods. The Committee concluded that Cyprus had acted upon its commitment.

Ethiopia

I. Progress in implementation

52. Ethiopia reported that, in 2016, 30 items of ordnance identified through reports from the public including 10 ATMs and 20 UXOs were destroyed. The Committee noted that limited activities were carried out by Ethiopia in the implementation of the plan presented in its 2015 request for extension.

53. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Ethiopia on progress in implementation did not permit comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2015 extension request. The Committee noted in particular that information on progress and the projected milestones defined in its extension request are missing and further information is required. When providing information Ethiopia is encouraged to use terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

54. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing the number of remaining CHAs (45) and SHAs (269) according to six regions of the country.

55. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia could significantly increase clarity, by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey”. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

56. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Ethiopia’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

57. The Committee noted that Ethiopia provided a detailed plan in its 2015 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 June 2020 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how and by whom and at what

cost. The Committee noted that Ethiopia did not report having released the areas that had been forecast in its extension request and did not provide any information on Article 5 implementation.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

58. The Committee recalled that in its 2015 extension request, Ethiopia provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that it employs “National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and Standard Operating Procedures which, with the support of Norwegian People’s Aid, had been updated in accordance with amendments to IMAS”.

59. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, continue to be applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee concluded that information on this matter would be welcome.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

60. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested Ethiopia to provide updates on progress relative to a number of commitments contained in section 14 of its extension request including outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Ethiopia’s understanding of the remaining implementation challenge; updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in terms of SHAs and CHAs in line with the IMAS; update on the development of plans to carry out survey activities on the Eritrean/Ethiopian border; resource mobilization efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Ethiopia to support implementation, and efforts to attract international mine action operators or advisors to offer technical support to Ethiopia, and; changes to the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation. The Committee concluded that Ethiopia has not acted in accordance with the 14MSP decision and that information on these actions and commitments would be welcome.

61. The Committee further recalled that the 14MSP noted that Ethiopia provided a detailed work plan in its request up until the end of 2017 and noted that it would be beneficial if Ethiopia would submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2017, an updated work plan including an updated list of all CHAs and SHAs, annual projections of which areas and area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and a detailed budget. The Committee concluded that as of 30 September 2017 an updated work plan has not been submitted by Ethiopia. The Committee further concluded that an updated work plan would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

62. The Committee noted that Ethiopia did not report on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs. The Committee would welcome information on this matter.

Mozambique

I. Progress in implementation

63. The Committee recalled that on 17 September 2015 Mozambique declared that it had completed the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control. The Committee further recalled that in declaring completion, Mozambique indicated that in the event that previously unknown mined areas are

discovered after this date, Mozambique would keep with the relevant decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties on a “*Proposed rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed*”.

64. Mozambique reported in its 2017 Article 7 Report that in April 2016 a suspected minefield was reported on the Mozambique and Tanzania border in Cabo Delgado province and that the *Instituto Nacional de Desminagem* (IND) together with APOPO carried out a combined non-technical survey of the area and concluded the existence of a 63,000 square metre suspected mined areas. Mozambique further reported the existence of an additional 4 areas measuring 3,226 square metres in Inhambane. During the 2017 intersessional meetings, Mozambique reported during the plenary that further investigations identified two additional minefields in Nangade, measuring approximately 22,000 square metres. The Committee indicated that given discrepancies between the information reported in its Article 7 Report and in its report to the intersessional meetings, the Committee would welcome clarification of the entire challenge identified.

65. Mozambique indicated in its 2017 Article 7 Report that the IND requested Norwegian People’s Aid to carry out clearance activities on the identified area starting in January 2017. Mozambique reported to the 2017 intersessional meetings, that the Government managed to clear all the identified minefields on the Mozambique – Tanzania border. In the process it identified and destroyed over 100 antipersonnel mines, and over 100,000 square metres of land cleared and returned to the local population.

66. The Committee noted that the information provided by Mozambique on the discovery of a previously unknown mined area was welcome but recalled that in such cases a State Party should, in accordance with the decision of the 12MSP, “immediately inform all States Parties of such a discovery, report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other means such as the meetings of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Meetings of the States Parties, Review Conferences and intersessional meetings”.

67. The Committee concluded that Mozambique could provide increased clarity concerning progress made by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

68. The Committee concluded that Mozambique had provided some clarity on its remaining challenge by providing a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region. During the 2017 intersessional meetings, Mozambique indicated that a total of 4 minefields measuring 1,881 square metres currently submerged in water in Inhambane province remain to be addressed and that these remaining minefields will be continuously monitored and cleared once the water level recedes and access is gained for their clearance.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

69. During a meeting with the Committee, Mozambique indicated that it will carry out an assessment of the remaining area and report on its findings to the Committee by 15 October. The Committee noted the importance of clarity concerning the situation in order to ensure that the decision of the 12MSP for such cases can be implemented accordingly. In particular, the Committee recalled that, in accordance with the decision of the 12MSP, if Mozambique believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference (whichever falls earlier), it should submit a request for an extended deadline, which should be as short as possible and no more than ten years, in accordance with its obligations under Article 5 and the process for submission of requests for extensions agreed to at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

70. The Committee concluded that information on the standards and methodologies being applied to the clearance and survey efforts would be welcome.

V. Mine risk education

71. The Committee noted that Mozambique did not report on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that information on this matter would be welcome.

Serbia

I. Progress in implementation

72. Serbia reported that it conducted non-technical survey during 2016 and 2017 resulting in an increase of 700,000 square metres of suspected hazardous areas (SHA). This increased the total SHA to be addressed to 2,630,340 square metres. The Committee noted that no clearance activities were carried out in 2016 due to lack of donor funding.

73. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Serbia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

74. The Committee concluded that Serbia had provided high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of all remaining areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to nine localities and an annexed table of each area. Serbia reported that, as of 1 April 2017, 13 SHAs totalling 2,630,340 square metres remained to be addressed.

75. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

76. Serbia provided a plan in its 2013 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 March 2019 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected where, when, how, by whom and at what cost.

77. In 2017, Serbia reported that it had adjusted its plan and provided an update on milestones to be covered during the extension period including addressing a total of 5 areas measuring 995,920 square metres in 2017; 5 areas measuring 1,181,820 square metres in 2018, and; 3 areas measuring 452,600 square metres in 2019. Serbia reported that the dynamics of implementation might be affected by a lack in the provision of funds. Serbia further reported that if additional funds are provided, the work plan could be implemented in due time. The Committee concluded that Serbia had a plan to achieve completion by its extended deadline that is dependent on donor funding.

78. Serbia reported that it has developed a technical survey project totalling 995,920 square metres and that this technical survey project will confirm or reject suspicion that the project area is contaminated with groups of mines and other UXO with CHAs being subject to clearance and those areas not confirmed to be mine contaminated to be cancelled.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

79. In its 2013 extension request Serbia provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the IMAS. In its 2017 report Serbia provided a further description of the approach it is taking to land release, which appears to take into account the emphasis that the IMAS place on the need for evidence to define areas as either CHA or SHA.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

80. The Committee concluded that Serbia was acting upon the decisions of the 13MSP having submitted an updated work plan to the Committee in March 2016 and having kept the States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia's national financial contribution to implementation, efforts to mobilise external resources, and the results of these efforts.

VI. Mine risk reduction

81. Serbia has reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through marking and MRE programmes. Serbia reported that, in accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations people are evacuated and traffic is suspended, and that this is coordinated with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies.

Thailand

I. Progress in implementation

82. Thailand reported that in 2016 it addressed 43 suspect hazardous areas located in 7 Provinces, releasing 28,194,432 square metres of land including 27,728,657 square metres cancelled, 71,537 square metres reduced and 394,238 square metres cleared. Thailand reported that through these efforts a total of 1,231 anti-personnel landmines and 246 other explosive items were destroyed. As a result of this work Thailand declared Chiang Rai Province mine free.

83. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with information previously provided by Thailand. The Committee further concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if it used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee noted the importance of Thailand continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance, reduction or cancellation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

84. The Committee concluded that Thailand had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of each area and information on the geographic location of each area. Thailand reported that during 2016 an additional 63,080 square metres of land was identified as mined area. Thailand reported a remaining challenge as of 31 December 2016 of 305 suspect hazardous areas located in 30 districts, of 13 provinces totalling an area of 422,605,172 square metres. Thailand further classified 86 areas, 63,796,040 square metres of its remaining challenge into, 'area that can be operated/surveyed'. While 244 areas, representing 358,809,132 square metres have been classified as, 'inaccessible due to pending demarcation processes.

85. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas in each region required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee also concluded that annual updates on the results of survey efforts would be welcome.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

86. The Committee noted that Thailand submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that Thailand had provided a two year work plan, (2017-2018) indicating what geographical and quantified results were expected when, how, and by whom. Thailand reported that it planned to address all accessible suspect hazardous areas by the end of 2018, targeting 34,744,589 square metres in 2017 and 29,051,451 square metres in 2018.

87. Thailand reported 358,809,132 square metres as areas to be demarcated. These areas are located along the Thai border, many of which are pending survey, demarcation process, or concerned with border related security issues. Thailand reported that while it is committed to expediting boundary demarcation with its neighbouring countries, such progress rests upon political factors of neighbouring countries which always have some uncertainties. In spite of this, Thailand reported that it will operate along border areas in areas to be demarcated which cover 12 provinces.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

88. Thailand reported that in 2016 it had completed the Evidence-Based Survey (EBS) pilot project with the support of NPA. Thailand further reported that, if the pilot project results are accurate and applied nationwide, only 13.5% land are actually contaminated meaning that 86.5% could be cancelled. The Committee noted that further updates from Thailand on the application of EBS to the remaining SHA in a manner consistent with the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, would be welcome

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

89. The Committee concluded that Thailand has been acting on its commitments given at the 9MSP to keep the States Parties apprised of progress.

90. The Committee recalled the commitments made by Thailand in its 2008 extension request related to enhancing and strengthening close cooperation at the regional level and building national capacity. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Thailand had provided updated information on these efforts and welcomed further updated information on consultations on areas pending demarcation, and engagement with mine action centres and other relevant bodies from neighbouring countries on demarcation leading to mine action. The Committee further concluded that it would welcome increased information on efforts to strengthen the national mine action programme by including a civilian mine action component and its work with non-governmental organisations.

VI. Mine risk reduction

91. Thailand reported in detail on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

Turkey

I. Progress in implementation

92. Turkey reported that, in 2016, 122,764 square metres were cleared on the border with Iran. Turkey further reported that while demining operations continued in the eastern borders, no mined area has been formally released to date and that information on area reduced and cancelled will be reported in the following years. Turkey reported that a total of 837 anti-personnel mines were destroyed during operations on the Syrian border and an additional 9,008 mines destroyed through the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project in Iğdir Province in 2016. The Committee welcomes that Turkey indicated that it would provide information on areas reduced or cancelled in the 2017 report.

93. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous information provided by Turkey. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

94. The Committee concluded that Turkey had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a table summarising the total, per border area, of the number of confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) and suspected hazardous areas (SHA), and, where known, the estimated size of area and the number of emplaced anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, where known. The Committee noted that Turkey reported that a comprehensive desk assessment of minefield records of the eastern and Syrian border was conducted in 2016. As a result, Turkey reported that, as of the end of 2016, 3,080 CHAs totalling 172,565,239 square metres and 701 SHAs, with an unknown amount of area, remained to be addressed.

95. The Committee concluded that updated information from Turkey on the remaining challenge would be welcome, including a list of all remaining CHAs and SHAs and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area.

96. The Committee concluded that Turkey could significantly increase clarity, by providing, in accordance with Action #8 of the Maputo Action Plan, information on “the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under its jurisdiction or control that contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require clearance, and that are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and therefore require further survey”. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Turkey’s remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

97. Turkey reported that since the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) in 2015, mine clearance operations and mine action activities have intensified in Turkey. Turkey reported on a number of national capacity development measures being implemented including improvements in information management.

98. Turkey reported that the first ever National Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2017-2019 has been drafted which is expected to be approved and published in the Official Gazette in 2017 which covers national capacity development, the clearance of mined areas and areas containing UXOs within the borders of the Republic of Turkey, provisions for MRE, assistance to mine victim, and the Syrian Border Physical Security System. The Committee concluded that information on the milestones for progress in mine clearance leading towards Turkey’s 1 March 2022 deadline for implementation of Article 5 would be welcome.

99. Turkey reported that non-technical survey operations are planned for 2017. The Committee concluded that additional information on the plan for non-technical survey and the outcomes of these activities would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

100. Turkey reported that National Mine Action Standards including land release policy have been drafted and are expected to be endorsed in 2017. The Committee concluded that information on the standards and methodologies to be employed would be welcome.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

101. The Committee concluded that Turkey complied with the 13MSP decision requesting Turkey to submit, to the States Parties, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension by March 2015. In submitting this plan, Turkey indicated that this work plan will be finalised by the NMAC, that there is an ongoing detailed exploration of mined areas in border regions, and that, as a result, further revisions to the plan are possible. The Committee concluded that, as further revisions to the plan are possible, ongoing updates by Turkey on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcome. The Committee further concluded that Turkey was complying with the decision of the 13MSP by keeping the states parties informed of progress in the clearance of mined areas in areas other than borders.

102. Turkey reported that in January 2015 Law No: 6586 on “Establishment on a National Mine Action Centre and Amendment of Some other Laws” entered into force on 3 February 2015. Turkey further reported that the law entitles the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC), established under the Ministry of National Defence, to define policies towards mine and/or UXO clearance activities within the territory of the Republic of Turkey, to plan and steer these activities, to monitor the execution of such activities in accordance with the established rules, to carry out the necessary coordination and cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions.

103. The Committee concluded that Turkey acted in accordance with the 13MSP decision requesting Turkey to submit an update on developments in the establishment of the NMAA and the NMAC; this includes enactment of National legislation, Law No: 671 of 15th August 2016 and subsequent enactment of the Law No: 6757 of 9 November 2016, that places the TURMAC under the Directorate of General Plans and Principles of the Ministry of National Defence.

VI. Mine risk reduction

104. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs. Turkey further reported that there were 57 new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2016 including 8 civilian wounded (4 children and 4 adults) and a total of 49 military personnel (35 wounded and 14 killed). The Committee concluded that the information on casualties provided by Turkey was not disaggregated by gender and age and encourages Turkey to disaggregate statistics in this manner.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

I. Progress in implementation

105. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported that it had concluded the fourth phase of the demining operation/land release operations. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland further reported that the fourth phase of

demining operations ran from January 2015 to March 2016 and cleared a total of 25 SHAs: 24, 26, 27, 35, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60, 86, 22, 33, 49, 50A, 50B, 51, 52, 53, 56, 59, 63A, 63B, 66, 83 and 110 as well as a non-minefield area. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported that the total number of mined areas addressed across the four phases totals 35.

106. The Committee concluded that the information provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland permitted comparability with the information previously provided. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

107. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updated information from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the remaining challenge including an updated list of all remaining confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and with this list including the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area. The Committee further concluded that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenges by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

108. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has indicated that during Phase 5 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will address at least 46 minefields and conduct technical survey in a further 27 minefields in the first two years, demonstrating progress towards meeting the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under the Convention.

109. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has indicated that two contractors- Dynasafe Bactec and Fenix Insight- have been engaged for the roles of Land Release Contractor and Demining Project Office respectively. The Committee concluded that updated information on United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland’s plan to complete implementation of Article 5 by its deadline of 1 March 2019 would be welcomed, specifically indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

110. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported that it applies the IMAS in its demining operations, as well as local environmental and planning regulations. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported that it is applying a combination of non-technical survey, technical survey, manual and mechanical clearance and battle area clearance, as well as applicable environmental standards.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

111. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension

request. The Committee concluded that the Convention as a whole would benefit if the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in the context of reporting on the progress on destruction of anti-personnel mines, provided an accounting of annual milestones of progress to be achieved during the remaining period of its extension request.

VI. Mine risk reduction

112. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported that there are effective fences and minefield marker warnings in place around all CHAs and SHAs, that school children are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings as appropriate.

Zimbabwe

I. Progress in implementation

113. Zimbabwe reported that in 2016 it addressed 11,148,348 square metres known to contain anti-personnel mines, including the cancellation of 6,297,977 square metres, reduction of 3,179,056 square metres and clearance of 1,671,315 square metres. During the reporting period Zimbabwe destroyed 23,379 anti-personnel mines, 4 anti-tank mines and 2 items of UXO.

114. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated according to area released through clearance and area released through cancellation. The Committee noted the importance of Zimbabwe continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

115. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and with this list including the estimated size of each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Zimbabwe reported that, as of the end of 2016, there remained five distinct minefields (divided into 212 sectors/tasks) totalling 66,230,103 square metres.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

116. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that the request contained an updated work plan with this plan indicating geographical and quantified results expected when, how, by whom and at what cost including addressing a total of 7,035,300 square metres in 2017; 7,367,700 square metres in 2018; 8,150,098 square metres in 2019; 9,008,098 square metres in 2020; 8,720,000 square metres in 2021; and 8,666,000 square metres in 2022; 8,790,000 square metres in 2023; 8,600,050 square metres in 2024, and; 3,072,418 square metres in 2025.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

117. The Committee noted that over the course of its last request, Zimbabwe had implemented effective land release methodologies leading to the cancellation and reduction of significant areas. The Committee further noted that Zimbabwe had adopted National Mine Action Standards which guide the work of operations in country. The Committee

further noted that Zimbabwe was also piloting other methodologies, in specific mechanical clearance and the use of mine detection dogs. The Committee concluded that additional information on the methodologies employed and how these methodologies impact the efficiency of Zimbabwe's mine action programme would be welcome.

118. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had increased its cooperation with international organisations. The Committee concluded that the increased cooperation with international organisations could positively affect the rate of addressing the remaining mined areas in Zimbabwe and would welcome information on the positive effects of this.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

119. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2014 extension request granted at the Third Review Conference. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe was complying with the commitments contained in its last request.

120. The Committee recalled that in the decision of the Third Review Conference on Zimbabwe's request, States Parties requested Zimbabwe to provide an update on the relocation of the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre out of military cantonments. The Committee concluded that additional information on the progress of this recommendation would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

121. Zimbabwe reported that all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have been marked and warning signs in both respective area languages and English were displayed with replacement of warning signs and their maintenance done on regular basis. Zimbabwe reported that the danger of people entering into minefields doing risk taking activities is reduced from massive mine risk-reduction education done by Zimbabwe Army Engineers and all demining organisations in their areas of responsibility. Efforts are being made to tailor messages according to community circumstances (e.g., according to the main economic, cultural and recreational activities carried in any particular locality).
