

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

22 November 2016

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Item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the general status and
operation of the Convention**

**Clearing mined areas: Conclusions and recommendations related to the
mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ireland, Zambia)**

Addendum**Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5****Contents**

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Afghanistan

I. Progress in implementation

1. Afghanistan reported that in 2015 it released 107 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing a total of 16,064,979 square metres, including 13,443,616 square metres cleared, 666,671 square metres reduced and 1,954,692 square metres cancelled, and destroying 6,955 anti-personnel mines. The Committee noted that the information provided by Afghanistan was disaggregated according to area cleared, reduced and cancelled.

2. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Afghanistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2012 extension request. In this regard, the Committee concluded that between 30 June 2012 and 31 December 2015, the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had been reduced from 3,847 to 2,578 and the amount of area reduced from 289,400,000 square meters to 239,464,868 square meters. The Committee also concluded that between 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015, while the number of areas to be addressed had decreased, the total area remaining to be addressed had increased from 221,944,806 square metres to 239,464,868 square metres.

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 according to the seven regions of the country. This list includes the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region. Afghanistan reported that, as of the end of 2015, 2,247 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 152,501,233 square meters and 331 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines measuring 86,963,635 square meters, totalling 2,578 mined areas measuring 239,464,868 square meters remain to be addressed.

4. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan had reported that, as anti-tank (AT) mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) also pose extreme risk to the civilian population and block development activities, in addition to clearance of areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines, the clearance of AT and ERW contaminated areas are also part of the extension request work plan. Afghanistan also reported areas contaminated by abandoned improvised explosive devices (IED) as anti-personnel hazard areas and therefore counted these as part of the remaining Article 5 challenge.

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 concluded that, while progress had greatly surpassed that expected in the plan contained in the extension request, in 2013 and 2014, progress in 2015 did not reach the target set in the work plan.

6. Afghanistan indicated in its extension request that it would annually review its work plan and make any necessary adjustment. The Committee concluded that since the submission of its extension request Afghanistan has reported adjustments to the work plan every year, including in 2016. The Committee further concluded that Afghanistan had provided an updated projection of the number of areas and amount of area to be addressed in each region and in

each year between 2016 and 2022. Afghanistan also reported on other changes that had been made to its work plan on the basis of new information obtained, as well as shortfalls in funding during the second and third years – 2014 and 2015 – of its extension. Afghanistan reported the number of areas and amount of area it estimates to be released annually including a total of 668 mined areas measuring 51.886 square kilometres in 2016; 356 mined areas measuring 47.377 square kilometres in 2017; 136 mined areas measuring 17.575 square kilometres in 2018; 400 mined areas measuring 38.979 square kilometres in 2019; 152 mined areas measuring 16.845 square kilometres in 2020; 219 mined areas measuring 26.648 square kilometres in 2021; and, 358 mined areas measuring 22.37 square kilometres.

7. The Committee concluded 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 (2,289) and amount of area (221.68 square kilometres) fall short of the number of areas (2,578) and amount of area (239.46 square kilometres) that Afghanistan has reported as remaining to be addressed. The Committee also concluded that, to allow for optimal comparability of data, Afghanistan could ensure that the amount of area is always reported in the same measurement unit.

8. In its extension request, Afghanistan reported that, in addition to anti-personnel mines, it faced challenges associated with anti-vehicle mines and other ERW. 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.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

9. 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 United Nations International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.11 for land release, and that these AMAS were reviewed by the AMAS Review Board and approved for application in MAPA. Subsequently, the SOPs of all demining organisations have been revised based on the requirements of these new AMAS and approved by UNMACA. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan had attached the relevant AMAS chapter to their report.

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

10. The Committee recalled that the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) had requested that Afghanistan 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 which requested Afghanistan to regularly inform the States Parties of non-technical survey and "village by village search" efforts, revisions to its work plan and reasons for these revisions. In providing this information, Afghanistan reported that ongoing conflict remains a major challenge threatening successful fulfilment of Article 5 commitments. In particular, Afghanistan reported that the use of pressure-plate IED by insurgent forces is of concern and represents the greatest challenge facing the mine action sector in Afghanistan today.

11. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan had reported in 2016 in such a way that there was a high degree of comparability with respect to annual milestones for progress provided in its extension request.

VI. Mine risk reduction

12. 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. This has included ensuring that appropriate marking of hazardous areas is carried out, as well as providing mine risk education (MRE) to people living in the mine-and other ERW-impacted communities, returnees and internally displaced people. This is done through diverse methods including visits to communities, the media, UNHCR transit centres, mini-circus for children and cooperation with the Ministry of Education to include MRE in school curriculums. Afghanistan reported that during 2015 an obligation was added to the Afghan Mine Action Standards (AMAS) and the clearance project proposals that when an international partner clear hazards in a community, they are responsible to mark remaining hazards in the community.

13. Afghanistan provided information on the monthly average number of casualties, indicating that between 2001 and 2013 the number of casualties fell significantly from a monthly average of 175 to 36, but that since 2013 the number of casualties had risen again to a monthly average of 102 during 2015, the majority of which were the result of IED incidents.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Progress in implementation

14. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2015, 26.6 square kilometres of “mine suspect area” were reduced, including 10.03 square kilometres of “mine risk area” having been reduced (8.39 square kilometres as a result of technical survey and 1.64 square kilometres through clearance operations), 16.57 square kilometres having been declared as “area without defined risk” following “general and systematic survey operations”. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that it had found and destroyed 1,654 anti-personnel mines in 2015.

15. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina could more clearly present implementation progress if Bosnia and Herzegovina used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either “confirmed hazardous area” or “suspected hazardous area” in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e., land that is cancelled, reduced or cleared). The Committee concluded that increased clarity from Bosnia and Herzegovina on this matter would be welcome including on terminology used such as “area without defined risk”.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

16. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 19,227 “minefield records” totalling 300 square metres remain to be addressed with the number of “minefield records” disaggregated according to three entities/districts. Bosnia and Herzegovina further indicated that 1,149.9 square kilometres of suspected hazardous area remains to be addressed disaggregated according to 13 administrative levels. The Committee concluded that this is an increase of the total number of “minefield records” reported at the end of 2014. The Committee would welcome clarity on the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

17. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 greater clarity could result in using terminology that is consistent with the IMAS, such as “suspected hazardous area” and “confirmed hazardous area”.

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.

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. The Committee concluded that the pace of implementation warranted a revision to Bosnia and Herzegovina’s plans for clearance and survey. The Committee further concluded that information would be welcome on updated projections of areas and area to be released for the remaining years leading to Bosnia and Herzegovina’s 1 March 2019 deadline.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

20. In its 2008 extension request, Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee concluded that since Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its request the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on any amendments Bosnia and Herzegovina may have made to its own standards to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

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

21. 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, an ongoing, although decreasing, high level of donor funding and the sustained and increasing availability of funds provided by local governments. The Committee concluded that increased clarity on how these factors may be affecting implementation would be welcome.

22. The Committee also recalled that the 9MSP noted the importance of clarity on the part of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding which areas of what size and at what locations remain to be addressed in each administrative area. 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

23. 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. In 2015, in Bosnia and Herzegovina 5,973 mine warning signs were put up. Also, in 2015, 36 permanent marking were implemented in a marked area of 2.56 square kilometers and put 321 single character and billboards informing of the mine situation. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that in 2015 there were 8 new victims. The Committee concluded that the information on casualties provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina was not disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome if Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide information in this manner.

Cambodia

I. Progress in implementation

24. Cambodia reported that in 2015 six demining operators combined cleared 185,304,981 square metres and destroyed 16,472 anti-personnel mines. Cambodia reported that from 1992 to December 2015 a total of 1,412,674,407 square kilometres have been addressed destroying in the process a total of 961,770 anti-personnel mines.

25. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be significantly clarified if Cambodia presented information in such a way that it could be compared with information previously provided by Cambodia. The Committee concluded, in particular, that providing geographically specific information concerning progress could allow for greater measurability and comparison with the information contained in Cambodia's "Report on the Results of the Baseline Survey in 124 Districts".

26. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Cambodia used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

27. Cambodia reported that there are areas located in the North-Western Province of Cambodia that are known and suspected to contain mines. Cambodia reiterated that the 2009-2014 Baseline Survey revealed a total of 11,967 polygons with an area of 1,071,383,958 square metres suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Cambodia indicated that this will be updated after the new National Mine Action Strategy has been finalised in 2016. Cambodia also reported that 1,640 square kilometres of contaminated land remain to be cleared. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updated information on the remaining challenge.

28. 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 further survey". The Committee further concluded that greater clarity could result in using terminology that is

consistent with the IMAS, such as “suspected hazardous area” and “confirmed hazardous areas”.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

29. Cambodia provided a detailed four-year work plan in its 2009 extension request as well as expected clearance productivity rates and costs over the extension period leading towards its 1 January 2020 deadline. The Committee concluded that it was not possible to determine whether Cambodia was on track to implement Article 5 in a manner consistent with this work plan. The Committee further concluded that, given that the Baseline Survey resulted in significantly more area having been identified than anticipated, an updated work plan would be welcome with updated projections of areas and area to be released leading to Cambodia’s 1 January 2020 deadline. In this regard, Cambodia reported that it was preparing a work plan 2017-2025.

30. Cambodia indicated that the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) developed in 2009 underwent an external review in early 2016 to assess Cambodia’s progress towards the achievement of the Convention’s obligations and to consider the requirements to complete these obligations. Cambodia further indicated that the review report issued in April 2016 highlighted mixed results on the implementation of the NMAS and that it was currently discussing what actions need to be taken in the light of the recommendations and findings of the review team.

31. Cambodia indicated that one of the review findings was that the elimination of anti-personnel mines contamination by 2019 was out of reach and that a clear understanding of mine action influencing contexts and the sector’s evolving needs was needed to appropriately address their impact on mine action operations. In this connection, Cambodia reported that it is developing the new NMAS 2017-2025 to meet the goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025. The Committee would welcome additional information on the development of the National Mine Action Strategy. The Committee also noted Cambodia’s early indication that it may need to requests a second request for extension in 2018.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

32. 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 concluded 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 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

33. 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 concluded that Cambodia had acted upon the commitment made in its extension request to carry out the Baseline Survey and report the findings to the States Parties. The Committee further concluded that it would welcome, as per the decision on Cambodia’s request, if Cambodia could provide, 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.

VI. Mine risk reduction

34. Cambodia has reported in detail on the various actors involved and the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. Cambodia reported that in 2015, 111 people were reported killed or injured by mines or other explosive remnants of war. The Committee concluded that the information on casualties provided by Cambodia was not disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome if Cambodia could provide information in this manner.

Croatia

I. Progress in implementation

35. Croatia reported that, in 2015, it addressed a total of 67,757,44 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 40,604,007 square metres cleared and 27,153,434 square metres cancelled. Croatia further reported that these efforts had resulted in the detection and destruction of 3,093 anti-personnel mines and 1,507 anti-vehicle mines and 1,708 items of unexploded ordnance.

36. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Croatia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with previous recommendations endorsed by the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

37. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing, as it did in 2015, a list of the remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each county 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. Croatia reported that, as of the end of 2015, areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, totalling approximately 467.4 square kilometres, remained to be addressed.

38. 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 required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

39. 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, like it did in 2015, 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 2016 and 2019.

40. In 2015, Croatia reported that it had an ongoing project financed by the EU for demining of agricultural land with the totality of agricultural land in Croatia to be cleared by 2016 (50 square kilometres). Croatia further reported that with the funds that the government was making available and funds from the Croatian forest company, Croatia would target known minefields in the forest areas and reduce additional land through non-technical and technical survey projects. The Committee concluded that Croatia had a plan to achieve completion by its 1 March 2019 extended deadline but that this plan could be updated relative to progress achieved in 2015.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

41. 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 United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In October 2015, the Croatian Parliament adopted a new law regulating mine action, giving the Croatian Mine Action Centre more possibilities to reduce suspected hazardous areas by using technical survey which was not possible under the previous law. New regulations and standard operating procedures are currently being elaborated which will prescribe in detail how mine action activities will take place in the field. The Committee concluded that information on these new regulations and standards operating procedures would be welcome.

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

42. 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 concluded that Croatia was acting upon the decisions of the 9MSP by providing updates relative to the timelines presented in its request.

43. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP had requested Croatia to provide updates on its methodology to address forested areas suspected to contain mines. Croatia reported that it has so far prioritized 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 suspected hazardous areas in forested areas. The Committee concluded that further information on this effort by Croatia would be welcomed.

VI. Mine risk reduction

44. Croatia has 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 mine risk education programs. 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. Croatia reported that, in 2015, there were two mine accidents involving three deminers, one of which was killed.

Cyprus

I. Progress in implementation

45. Cyprus reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Cyprus, in 2012, to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has 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 in implementation that had 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

46. Cyprus reported that since July 2013 there are no anti-personnel mines laid in the minefields of the National Guard 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.

47. Cyprus reported that it has taken concrete steps to ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in minefields and submitted to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus information on 28 known mined areas and that, according to information released by UNFICYP, those 28 minefields were subject to non-technical survey by the United National Mine Action Service, and according to its assessment only three of them require further technical survey.

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

48. 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.

Iraq

I. Progress in implementation

49. Iraq reported that in 2015 it has addressed a total of 30,670,900 square metres with a total of 4,700,211 square metres having been addressed through clearance, 18,059,575 square metres having been cancelled through non-technical survey and a total of 7,911,114 square metres having been reduced through technical survey. Iraq reported that through these efforts at total of 10,658 anti-personnel mines were destroyed.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

50. The Committee concluded that Iraq provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, and including in this list the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e. “known” or “suspected”), the types and quantity, when known, of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Iraq reported that a total of 2’507 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 1,432,687,596 square metres remain to be addressed and that more than 1’057 suspected hazardous areas measuring 155’754’192 square metres remain to be surveyed.

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

III. National plans for clearance and survey

52. The Committee concluded that a detailed plan to implement Article 5 would be welcome, specifically indicating, where possible, what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom, at what costs and employing what methods.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

53. The Committee concluded that in 2013 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 the status of Iraq’s National Mine Action Standards and on efforts to carry out survey and clearance in the most effective and efficient way possible would be welcome.

V. Mine risk reduction

54. Iraq has 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 mine risk education programmes and trainings. Iraq reported that it carried out programmes through a wealth of different means to disseminate information on the risk of mines, including through television and radio announcements. Iraq further reported 32 new casualties from anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war in 2014 including 1 child, 4 women and 27 men.

Oman

Progress in implementation

55. Oman reported that there are no areas known to contain anti-personnel mines in Oman. Oman further reported that despite the fact that no accident resulting from anti-personnel mines has been reported over the last 20 years, some areas are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as a result of rebellious activities in the 1960’s and 1970’s. Oman indicated that these suspected areas are difficult to access. Oman reported that search operations carried out by a dedicated battalion from the army are ongoing. The Committee concluded that further

information on the identification and precise location of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines would be welcome. The Committee further concluded that additional information on efforts to locate and address these areas would also be welcome.

Serbia

I. Progress in implementation

56. Serbia reported that in 2015 it cleared 414,000 square metres of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and otherwise released 759,000 square metres of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 1,173,000 square metres addressed culminating in the destruction of 14 anti-personnel mines and one item of unexploded ordnance.

57. 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

58. The Committee concluded that Serbia had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to nine localities. This table includes the number of areas, the amount of area in each locality and the status of the area (i.e. all areas are considered “suspected”). Serbia reported that, as of February 2016, 13 suspected hazardous areas totalling 1,936,080 square metres remained to be addressed. This included area in Bujanovac that had been reclassified from confirmed hazardous area to suspected hazardous area to ensure that the area is addressed by the most cost effective means.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

59. 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. In 2016, 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 810,105 square metres in 2016; 601,699 square metres in 2017; 524,276 square metres in 2018; and, carrying out “additional check-up and verification” in 2019. Serbia reported that the dynamics of implementation of the clearance projects might be affected by provision of funds. Serbia further reported that if additional funds are provided, the work plan could be implemented in a shorter period. The Committee concluded that Serbia had a plan to achieve completion well before its extended deadline.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

60. In its 2013 extension request Serbia provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In its 2015 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 confirmed or suspected hazardous areas.

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

61. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested Serbia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP had requested that Serbia keep the States Parties regularly apprised of Serbia's national financial contribution to implementation, efforts to mobilise external resources, and the results of these efforts. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP had requested Serbia to provide by 1 March 2016 an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension.

62. 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 provided information concerning national financial contributions and efforts to mobilise external resources.

VI. Mine risk reduction

63. Serbia has reported 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. 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.

South Sudan

I. Progress in implementation

64. In 2015, South Sudan reported having cancelled 4'384'038 square metres, reduced 144'905 square metres and cleared 9,462,153 square metres of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines for a total of 13,991,096 square metres addressed.

65. The Committee concluded that the information provided by South Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with recommendations endorsed by the States Parties. The Committee concluded that it was important for South Sudan to continue providing information on progress made disaggregated according to areas cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and released through clearance.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

66. The Committee concluded that South Sudan 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, the status of each area (i.e. "known" or "suspected") and information on the geographic location of each area. South Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2015, 303 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel totalling 98,403,022 square metres remained to be addressed.

67. 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 required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee further concluded that while the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines had reduced from 310 to 303 between 2014 and 2015, the amount of area remaining to be addressed had increased from 95,819,427 to 98,403,022 square metres. The Committee concluded that clarity relative to the increase in the amount of area would be welcome.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

68. In 2015 and 2016, South Sudan reported that it will undertake the development of a multi-year clearance plan which takes into consideration the known hazardous areas, historical patterns for resources available to the mine action sector, as well as the prevailing operational and security environment in various regions of the country and that this plan will be published in subsequent Article 7 reports and updates will be provided to States Parties. The Committee concluded that updated information on South Sudan's plan to complete implementation of Article 5 would be welcomed, specifically indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost.

69. South Sudan reported that it was expected that when the security conditions will improve and permit, survey of the Greater Upper Nile region and other areas affected by the conflict, will need to be conducted. The Committee concluded that updated information relative to the security situation will be welcomed.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

70. In 2015, South Sudan reported that all land release efforts are carried out based on South Sudan National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) which are based on the most up-to-date International Mine Action Standards. South Sudan further indicated that once survey is completed it is either cancelled through non-technical survey or prioritized for technical survey and clearance.

V. Mine risk reduction

71. South Sudan has 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 mine risk education programs and marking of mined areas. South Sudan further reported that it prioritises internally displaced persons, returnee settlements and schools for Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities and that South Sudan works with UNMAS to train and accredit all MRE teams according to national standards. South Sudan further indicated that it is working with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, with the support of UNICEF, to develop a teacher's guidebook to be launched officially for use in all public and private primary schools as well as teacher training colleges. South Sudan reported that there were 75 new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2015. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on victims disaggregated by gender and age.

Sudan

I. Progress in implementation

72. Sudan reported that, in 2015, it addressed a total of 423,158 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines through clearance. Sudan further reported that, in 2015, it addressed total of 8 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and destroyed 28 anti-personnel mines, 23 anti-vehicle mines and 4,501 items of unexploded ordnance.

73. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Sudan 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 in a manner consistent with previous recommendations endorsed by the States Parties. The Committee also concluded that clarifications would be welcome with respect to the discrepancy highlighted by Sudan on the status of programmes for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

74. The Committee concluded that Sudan 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, the status of each area (i.e. “known” or “suspected”), and information on the geographic location of each area. Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2015, 63 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,799,054 square metres and 49 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 18,115,237 square metres remained to be addressed. The Committee concluded that while the amount of area known to contain mines has been reduced, the number of areas have increased from 58 to 63. Likewise, the Committee concluded that, while the amount of area suspected to contain mines has remained the same since 2015, the number of areas have decreased from 50 to 49. The committee concluded that clarity on the actions that led to this alteration would be welcome.

75. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Sudan’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 in the context of Article 5 obligations.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

76. Sudan provided a detailed plan in its 2013 extension request covering the period 2013-2015 and projections of the number of areas and amount of area to be released each year from 2013 to 2019, leading towards completion by Sudan’s 1 April 2019 deadline. Sudan, in its updated work plan report, provided a revised number of areas per state that it intends to address during the period 2016 to 2019 including a total of 43 areas measuring 7,324,853 square metres in 2016; 35 areas measuring 6,385,382 square metres in 2017; 24 areas measuring 5,085,217 square metres in 2018; and 10 areas measuring 2,118,840 square metres in 2019 (to 1 April 2019). The Committee concluded that the information provided by Sudan on its national plans for clearance and survey allowed for comparability of information from year to year and for clarity regarding the implementation relative to Sudan’s plan.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

77. In its 2013 extension request Sudan provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. In its 2015 report Sudan provided additional details on its land release process. The Committee concluded that, as Sudan reported that it was reviewing its national technical standards, Sudan may, in the near future, be able to provide additional information on the application of the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, pursuant to Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan.

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

78. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Sudan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request.

79. The Committee concluded that Sudan had reported in detail on each of these matters. The Committee further concluded that, with respect to information provided on survey efforts and on the security situation, Sudan reported that Blue Nile and South Kordofan had been mostly inaccessible due to insecurity over the past three years and that this situation has negatively impacted the efforts of Sudan to meet its commitments under Article 5. The Committee also concluded that, with respect to information on financing, Sudan reported that in 2015 the Sudan Mine Action Programme received 600,000 USD from different donors and that in addition the government of Sudan supported the programme by providing salaries for staff of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), the operational costs of the NMAC and contributing 1 million USD. Sudan further reported that there was a 22 million USD gap in funding for 2015.

80. Sudan further reported that the database clean-up effort was ongoing and could not be finalized in 2015. The Committee concluded that given the importance of ensuring that the national program counts on clear and up-to-date information on the status of operations, updated information on progress in this area would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

81. Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through the marking of hazardous areas. Sudan reported that in 2015 a number of mine risk education (MRE) services had been provided to communities at risk. The total number of individuals who received MRE messages in 2015 are 217,634 persons in 7 states (73,318 boys; 51,944 girls; 43,640 men; 48,732 women).

82. Sudan further reported that, from March 2013 to February 2016, 122 mine/ERW victims were recorded. The Committee concluded that this data was disaggregated by age and gender.

Thailand

I. Progress in implementation

83. Thailand reported that, in 2015, it addressed 52 areas in 13 districts in nine provinces releasing a total of 41'723'058 square metres with a total of 2,047,662 square metres having been cleared, 12,251,858 square metres having been reduced and 27,423,538 square metres having been cancelled, destroying in the process 4,333 anti-personnel mines and 4,225 other explosive items. Thailand reported that this effort led to the completion of Mae Hong Son, Phayao and Nah Provinces in the northern region.

84. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with recommendations endorsed by the States Parties. The Committee concluded that it was important for Thailand to continue providing information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

85. 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, as of 31 December 2015, 314 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 450,736,524 square metres remained to be addressed, with mined areas located in 33 districts in 14 of Thailand's provinces. Thailand further reported that all confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) have been re-categorised as suspected hazardous areas (SHA) as a result of the ongoing resurvey process to determine contaminated areas as precisely as possible.

86. 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 required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updates from Thailand on the results of survey efforts.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

87. Thailand provided a detailed plan in its 2008 extension request leading towards completion by its 1 November 2018 deadline, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results were expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that the remaining challenge as of 2015 is significantly larger than the expected remaining challenge estimated for Thailand in its request for 2015. In this regard, the Committee further concluded that it would be welcome if Thailand could provide an updated work plan indicating what geographical and quantified results it expects to accomplish by its extended deadline of 1 November 2018.

88. Thailand reported that the remaining suspected hazardous area is divided into two categories. The areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mine in normal condition (total: 259 areas, 355,416,328 square metres) are to be released by normal procedures, with high priority being given to areas in proximity to civilian activities and areas designated by the Government for development. Thailand reported that it aims to release all areas under this category within the extended deadline by 2018 and is working with Norwegian People's Aid on carrying out a

resurvey based on Evidence-Based Survey (EBS) Technique. Thailand reported that if this method is successful, it will be applied to other areas in Thailand. The Committee concluded that would welcome information on the results of these efforts.

89. Thailand reported that the second category are areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mine with border problems (total: 88 areas, 95,320,196 square metres). Thailand reported that the clearance of areas under the second category faces challenges due to the ambiguity of border lines between Thailand and Myanmar, Thailand and Lao PDR, and Thailand and Cambodia. Thailand reported that clearance can only start after a bilateral agreement has been reached between Thailand and the respective country. In this regard, Thailand reported that TMAC has already engaged in a discussion with their Cambodian counterpart on the possibility of joint operations. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updated information on this situation and efforts made to ensure that mined areas can be addressed as soon as possible.

90. Thailand reported projections of how many areas and how much area of category 1 SHAs will be addressed in which provinces leading to its deadline. In 2016, it is projected that 17 areas totalling 32,798,755 square metres will be addressed in seven provinces, reducing the number of mine-contaminated provinces from 14 to seven. In 2017, 118 areas totalling 160,700,611 square metres, and in 2018, 124 areas totalling 161,746,247 square metres are projected to be addressed. Thailand reported that, concerning Category 2 areas, during this period it estimates that it will address a total of 88 areas measuring 95,320,196 square metres.

91. The Committee concluded that Thailand could increase clarity concerning its remaining challenge 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”.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

92. In its 2008 extension request Thailand provided a description of its land release methods including its Locating Minefield Procedure (LMP), which was intended to complement clearance. The Committee concluded that, since Thailand submitted its request, the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee concluded that Thailand may benefit from ensuring that, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan, 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. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on amendments Thailand may have made to its own standards to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

93. Thailand reported that in 2015 it began to apply a new land release method called “Evidence-Based Survey” (EBS) in which only the area with strong evidence of mine contamination will be categorised as confirmed hazardous area. The EBS method will allow identifying a more realistic estimation of mine-contaminated land and thus enable the clearance plan to be more time-bound in this regard. Thailand reported that in 2016 the Thailand Mine Action Centre will launch a pioneering project to involve more local stakeholders in mine clearance and in the land release process in their own provinces.

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

94. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Thailand to 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 significant progress was expected, through Thailand's Locating Minefields Procedure, to overcome impeding circumstances such as the manner in which the Landmine Impact Survey in Thailand had hindered implementation efforts. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Thailand had reported that a significant amount of suspected hazardous area had been released since Thailand's extension request was considered. The Committee concluded that Thailand is carrying out a number of measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations.

95. The Committee also 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 information pursuant to these commitments would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

96. Thailand reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. Thailand reported that all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have been marked and warning signs in both Thai and English languages are prominently displayed, with warning signs replaced and maintained on a regular basis. Thailand indicated that the number of mine victims has continued to decrease and that in 2015 there were five victims of mines (two men killed and three men injured). The Committee concluded that data on victims was desegregated by age and gender.

Turkey

I. Progress in implementation

97. Turkey reported that no areas were released over the course of 2015. Turkey reported that a total of 25,282 anti-personnel mine were destroyed due to explosions caused by various reasons and through discoveries in mine fields located on Turkey's border.

98. In total since entry into force of the Convention for Turkey in 2004, Turkey has addressed six areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 1,150,297 square metres. The Committee concluded that further information on progress in implementation by Turkey would be welcome.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

99. The Committee concluded that Turkey had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a table summarising the total, per province, of the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, the estimated size of area, where known, and the number of emplaced anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, where known. Turkey reported that, as of the end of 2015, 3,080 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines

totalling 172,688,003 square metres and 701 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with an unknown amount of area, remained to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

100. Turkey reported that the plans presented in its extension request were revised through the updated work plan submitted on 17 March 2015 which contained the following elements:

- With respect to mined areas in locations other than borders, the armed forces will address 280 areas totalling 1,514,913 square metres, with the number of areas per province and amount of area (if known) specified on an annual basis each year from 2015 to 2021. Areas that are not planned to be cleared by the mine clearance units of the Turkish Armed Forces but will be addressed in accordance with the Mine Action Plan: 593 totalling 1,592,936 square metres, with the number or areas and amount of area specified to be addressed during the period 2015-2022.
- With respect to Turkey's eastern borders, 223 areas totalling 11,669,907 square metres will be addressed in phase #1 during the period 2015-2017. A second phase of activity would take place during the period 2017-2019 with the number of areas and total area to be addressed to be determined on the basis of ongoing surveys.
- With respect to Turkey's south-eastern border, 969 areas totalling 2,862,835 square metres will be addressed during the period 2019-2021.
- With respect to Turkey's border with Syria, mine clearance activities will commence following the settlement of armed conflicts in Syria and the preparation of a Strategic Mine Action Plan by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC).

101. Turkey reported that an updated National Mine Action Plan will be presented once it is finalized by the Turkish National Mine Action Centre (TURMAC). Turkey reported that with ongoing detailed survey and detection activities in mined areas further revisions to the work plans are possible.

102. Turkey reported that contacts with a demining company and with a Quality Assurance and a Control company have been signed under the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) and that demining activities in the field are expected to start in the following months. Turkey reported that the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017 and release and areas of 15 million square metres by the completion of the Project.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

103. In its 2013 extension request, Turkey provided information concerning its land release methods, noting that all land release activities are based on the standards and principles in its Syrian Border Mine Clearance Standards, which are based on the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Turkey further indicated in its request that, although these standards were developed exclusively for the Syrian border, they are applicable for the clearance of other areas. In its 2015 report Turkey reported that the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) has been exerting efforts to define land release standards with other institutions and that land release standards will be applied after they are defined by TURMAC. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updated information on Turkey's efforts to establish land release standards in accordance with IMAS.

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

104. The Committee recalled that the 13MSP had requested that Turkey provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. 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. In submitting this plan, Turkey indicated that this work plan will be finalized 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 welcomed.

105. 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 unexploded ammunition 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.

106. Turkey reported that preparations of the National Mine Action Plan by TURMAC are ongoing and that the plan has been submitted to the council of ministers during the current year.

VI. Mine risk reduction

107. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with these actions including fencing and marking as well as mine risk education programmes. Turkey further reported that there were 215 new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2015. The Committee concluded that the information on casualties provided by Turkey was not disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome if Turkey could provide information in this manner.

Ukraine

108. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties the Ukraine indicated that in the east of the country there are areas that are known or presumed to be mined by anti-personnel mines but that these areas are currently not under its effective control.

United Kingdom

I. Progress in implementation

109. The United Kingdom reported that the fourth phase of the demining operation commenced in January 2015; that, due to challenging weather conditions, the project paused at the end of April; and that by that time nine mined areas had been either cancelled or cleared. The United Kingdom further reported that the project would recommence in September. The United Kingdom reported that the fourth phase of demining operations ran until March 2016

and cleared a total of 25 suspected hazardous areas including Phase 4a: 24, 26, 27, 35, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60 and 86. Phase 4b: 22, 33, 49, 50A, 50B, 51, 52, 53, 56, 59, 63A, 63B, 66, 83 and 110 as well as the non-minefield area behind the Stanley Common fence to the west of the Eliza Cove road. The United Kingdom indicated that during operations an unexpectedly large number and pattern of mines that did not match the mine records was found within an area that was fenced and marked.

110. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom had provided a high degree of clarity with respect to areas and area cleared and that the information provided by the United Kingdom on progress in implementation allowed for a high degree of comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee concluded the importance of the United Kingdom providing information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance and areas released through cancellation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

111. The United Kingdom reported that once the fourth phase of completion is finished, no more than 83 suspected hazardous areas will remain. The Committee would welcome updated information from the United Kingdom on the remaining challenge.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

112. The United Kingdom indicated that discussions on future phases of demining operations continued throughout 2015. The Committee concluded that, as the United Kingdom had not provided plans to implement Article 5 beyond 2015, further updates by the United Kingdom on its plan to implement Article 5 would be welcome.

113. The United Kingdom indicated that in 2015 it carried out a scoping project including limited technical survey of York Bay to help them understand better the resources needed to demine this environmentally sensitive area in the future.

114. The United Kingdom reported that there are several challenges to demining including weather, environmental impact, incomplete minefield records and a tough financial climate which may become increasingly significant.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

115. The United Kingdom reported that it applies the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in its demining operations, as well as local environmental and planning regulations.

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

116. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested the United Kingdom to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom complemented its annual Article 7 submission in 2016 by providing an update on progress made.

VI. Mine risk reduction

117. The United Kingdom reported that there are effective fences and minefield marker warnings in place around all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, that school children are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings as appropriate. The United Kingdom reported that the small humanitarian and socio-economic impact of the mined areas decreases as the mined areas closest to population centres are cleared, and that most of the remaining mined areas are in extremely remote locations and pose negligible risk to civilians.

Yemen

I. Progress in implementation

118. Yemen reported that during 2015, because of the war and events ongoing in the country, Yemen has an emergency plan to remove and clear explosive remnants of war (ERW) and that this plan has been implemented in three governorates (Sana'a, Amran and Hajjah). The first objectives for operations include areas around schools and in cities contaminated by ERW. Operations in the 162 targeted schools resulted in the collection of 652 ERW including unexploded ordnance and cluster bombs.

119. The Committee concluded that the current situation in Yemen may present challenges to Yemen's implementation of its Article 5 commitments given security concerns and concurrent important priorities. The Committee further concluded that it would welcome updated information from Yemen on progress in implementation as it becomes available.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

120. Yemen reported that 471 suspected hazardous areas totalling 322,470,981 square metres remain to be surveyed in 12 governorates and that 107 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 8,143,256 square metres remain to be addressed. Yemen reported that, nonetheless, previously clear and cleared land has been either suspected or physically confirmed as being contaminated or re-contaminated, and that the remaining Article 5 challenge is not completely known as survey remains to be carried out in a number of areas. Yemen further indicated that it remains committed to providing yearly updates on progress made on survey and the results of this survey, and to indicating at the earliest possible moment the true extent of contamination and the realistic resources and timeline to mitigate the threats. The Committee noted the challenges faced by Yemen and concluded that it would welcome updated information as it becomes available.

121. Yemen reported that, according to the new challenges posed by ongoing conflicts in 13 governorates, Yemen expects that five governorates could be contaminated by mines (Aden, Lahijj, Taiz, Abyan and Mareeb), five governorates could be contaminated by cluster bombs (Mareeb, Sada'a, Amran, Hajjah and Al Hodaydah) and 10 governorates could be contaminated by ERW.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

122. Yemen reported that a methodology has been developed to conduct remote mapping by collating open-source information into a 'heat map' of the country giving a clearer picture of the threats. This map may be overlaid with population density statistics which will indicate

impact as well. A high incidence of threats combined with a high-population density will indicate higher priorities for mine action interventions.

123. Yemen provided a work plan for non-technical and technical survey which indicates that the remaining suspected hazardous areas of 322,470,981 square metres in 12 governorates will be surveyed between March 2016 and March 2017, with further technical survey expected between March 2017 and March 2019. Yemen reported that clearance will be implemented in the same governorates targeted for non-technical survey.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

124. Yemen reported that the method used to identify areas containing anti-personnel mines and the reasons for suspecting the presence of anti-personnel mines in other areas is that of releasing land through technical survey by applying manual clearance and mine detection dogs, and working according to international and Yemeni standards. The technical survey is the first essential step to identify and verify the location of minefields, to draw contamination maps and conduct clearance in small minefields, in addition to the survey teams making large area reduction and area cancellation.

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

125. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested Yemen to submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that this work plan contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and amount of area that would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisations, and a detailed budget. The Committee concluded that Yemen was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request of keeping the States Parties apprised of progress made and by submitting an updated work plan.

126. The Committee observed that Yemen provided a budget for the remaining period covered by the extension request which includes the contribution from the Government of Yemen, resources available from other sources and resources to be mobilised from donor countries.

VI. Mine risk reduction

127. Yemen reported that it implements a marking system to ensure the safety of civilians from mined areas through permanent and temporary marking according to international standards, and that it distributes the list of all mine-affected areas to local authorities in the relevant communities.

128. Yemen indicated that the most common methods of information transmission are posters, signs, brochures and school presentations, and indicated that during the period from January to December 2015 and with support from UNICEF, Yemen has implemented mine risk education in six governorates (Sana'a, Aden, Al Hodaydah, Hajjah, Taiz and Al Baydha) and the total number of the targeted people is 349,947 located in 2,037 locations of which 196,909 were men and 153,038 women. Yemen indicated that in 2015 no records on mine/ERW accidents and the number of victims were collected.

Zimbabwe

I. Progress in implementation

129. Zimbabwe reported that, in 2015, it cleared 147,310 square metres of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, reduced a total of 2,149 square metres and cancelled 656,541 square metres for a total of 806,000 square metres addressed, destroying a total of 119 anti-personnel mines, finalising operations in the Burma Valley Minefield in Manicaland Province.

130. The Committee concluded 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

131. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of provinces, the number of remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of contamination in the provinces, and information on the geographic location of each area. Zimbabwe reported that, as of the end of 2015, thirteen areas in Zimbabwe were known to contain mines remained totalling 73,117,991 square metres. The Committee observed that in its previous report Zimbabwe had subdivided the areas into hundreds of areas.

132. Zimbabwe indicated that since its last report further survey and exact mapping has resulted in an increase in the remaining area known to contain mines in the Sango Border to Crooks Corner Minefield by an additional 25'986'616 square metres. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the survey activities that were carried out and which led to the expansion of the amount of area needing to be addressed

III. National plans for clearance and survey

133. Zimbabwe provided an updated work plan in 2015, with this plan indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe's plan includes information concerning the milestones to be met over the course of its extension period, including addressing a total of 1,554,000 square metres in 2015; 2,063,400 square metres in 2016; and 2,134,000 square metres in 2017.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

134. In its 2013 extension request, Zimbabwe did not provide a detailed description of its land release methods, indicating that, as suspected hazardous areas cleared and released were known minefields, the method used to release land in these areas was manual demining through full clearance. Zimbabwe also indicated in its request that the Zimbabwe National Mine Action Standards (ZNMAS 01) were approved as a legal document with effect from 1 July 2013 and that all mine action organisations have started operation based on these standards.

135. Zimbabwe reported that two new international demining organisations, MAG and APOPO, have been engaged, which should increase the rate of clearance. Zimbabwe further reported that Cabinet has approved the two proposed MoUs with MAG and APOPO on 17

May 2016 and that the signing will be arranged as soon as possible. In addition, Zimbabwe reported that increased funding to NPA and HALO Trust is foreseen by one of their donors, which should further increase the rate of clearance. The Committee concluded that the increased cooperation with international organizations could positively affect the rate of addressing the remaining mined areas in Zimbabwe and would welcome information on the positive effects of this on the work plan.

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

136. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested Zimbabwe to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the Third Review Conference had requested that, given that survey activities are scheduled to be completed by September 2014 -which should result in an accurate understanding of the remaining implementation challenge- Zimbabwe submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2015, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request, and that it keep the States Parties regularly apprised of progress in meeting the milestones in Zimbabwe's request. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe had submitted an updated plan to the States Parties in 2015 and had been acting on its commitments to keep the States Parties informed on progress

137. Zimbabwe reported that, in 2015, with respect to the commitments in its request granted by the Third Review Conference, Zimbabwe enhanced its mine action information management capacity by sending two officers for basic training in information management, and efforts were now at an advanced stage on the establishment of a functional IMSMA. With respect to the need to consider applying the full range of available means to efficiently and expediently release areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, Zimbabwe is in the process of accrediting two other demining organisations to share the burden with the existing three organisations.

138. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request by submitting an updated work plan within its Article 7 report and by keeping the States Parties informed of progress in implementation of the commitments it has made in its extension request.

139. The Committee concluded that updated information concerning the commitments of Zimbabwe related to the relocation of the mine action centre out of military installations as well as the development of a national strategic plan was provided by Zimbabwe. Concerning the relocation of ZIMAC out of military cantonment, Zimbabwe reported that ZIMAC will be relocated out of the cantonment area once the Government avails funds for purchasing or renting accommodation. Zimbabwe further indicated that funds required for this are being sourced by the Ministry of Defence and that the Government was committed to the relocation of ZIMAC offices. Zimbabwe further reported that it is in the process of developing its National Strategic Plan to be presented in complement to the clearance plan..

VI. Mine risk reduction

140. Zimbabwe reported that all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have been marked and warning signs in both respective areal languages and English are prominently displayed. Zimbabwe has reported that efforts are being made to tailor messages according to community circumstances (e.g., according to the main economic, cultural and recreational activities carried out in any particular locality), but that lack of funding hampers

replacement of warning signs and maintenance on a regular basis to reduce the danger of locals straying into minefields.

141. In 2015, Zimbabwe reported that eight casualties occurred (one killed, seven injured). Four men and four boys were reported as victims; three of the casualties which resulted in injuries occurred during demining operations. In addition 35 cattle were killed due to mines/ERW in 2015.
