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AP Mine Ban Convention 2020 Intercessional Meeting: Committee on Article 5 Implementation Observations

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PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Austria, Canada, Norway, Zambia)
Intersessional Meetings 30 June -2 July 2020

PART 1: Introduction

I. Activities of the Committee

1. The Committee met first on 6 December 2019 to discuss its work plan for the year and has met regularly since, including a number of online virtual meetings.
2. On 14 January 2020 the Committee distributed communications to States Parties as follows:
 - a. to 8 States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in 2021 that were obliged to submit a request for extension by 31 March 2020 - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan and Ukraine - to recall to them the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties as well as to recall their obligation to submit their annual transparency report by the 30 April deadline and to encourage them to use the Guide to Reporting;
 - b. to Nigeria to recall the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties as well as to recall the obligation to submit an annual transparency report by the 30 April deadline and to encourage Nigeria to use the Guide to Reporting. Nigeria indicated in its statement to the Fourth Review Conference that, due to new contamination, it was committed to submitting an Article 7 Report with details on all suspected and confirmed hazardous mines of an improvised nature, as well as a request for extension in line with the decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) and a work-plan for the commencement of survey and clearance of mines.
 - c. to Mauritania, to recall the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties as well as to recall the obligation to submit an annual transparency report by the 30 April deadline and to encourage Mauritania to use the Guide to Reporting. Mauritania indicated to the Committee during bilateral meetings that it has discovered previously unknown mined areas and indicated that it was in the process of drafting its Article 7 Report and a request for extension in line with the decisions of the 12MSP.
 - d. to 3 States Parties with Article 5 deadlines in 2022 that may need to submit a request for extension by 31 March 2021 - Cyprus, Somalia and Turkey – to recall the Article 5 extension request process established by the States Parties;
 - e. to 33 States Parties which at the time had indicated to the Committee that they had areas under their jurisdiction or control in which antipersonnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced, to recall their obligation to submit an annual transparency report by the 30 April deadline and to encourage them to use the Guide to Reporting;

- f. to 4 States Parties – Croatia, Serbia, Sudan and the United Kingdom - which were due to submit updated work plans / additional information in accordance with previously granted extension requests and provide additional information as requested by decisions taken by Meetings of the States Parties on their requests for extension.
3. During the United Nations National Mine Action Directors Meeting (11 – 14 February 2020), the Committee held bilateral meetings with:
 - a. representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Ukraine, which had indicated that they would need to submit a request for extension in 2020, in order to discuss progress in the development and submission of their requests. The Committee offered its support to these States in this regard and encouraged Nigeria to make use of the support of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU);
 - b. representatives of Croatia, Serbia and Sudan to discuss their progress and challenges in implementing their mine clearance obligations and in providing an updated work plan;
 - c. a representative of Mauritania to discuss Mauritania's current situation concerning the discovery of previously unknown mined areas and the related implementation of Article 5;
 - d. representatives of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the Mine Action Review regarding input on the implementation of Article 5 obligations by States Parties; and
 - e. the Committee also participated in an informal briefing which was held with National Directors of Mine Action Programmes on the margins of the meeting with the aim of raising awareness of the Oslo Action Plan, encouraging adherence of States Parties to their obligation to submit Article 7 Reports by 30 April 2020 and encouraging States Parties to include detailed quantitative and qualitative information on implementation of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan in their Article 7 Reports.
4. The Committee carried out efforts to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Article 5 extension request process as established by the States Parties. In this regard:
 - a. Following receipt of extension requests from Colombia (19 March 2020) and South Sudan (27 March 2020), the Committee reached out to expert organisations on 8 April 2020 to request input on these requests, in accordance with the process established by the States Parties;
 - b. On 14 April 2020, the Committee sent a letter to all States Parties to inform them of the receipt of requests for extension submitted Colombia and South Sudan, and to point out that extension requests due to be submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria Senegal and Ukraine were pending submission.
 - c. Following receipt of extension requests from Niger (28 May 2020) and Ukraine (8 June 2020), the Committee reached out to expert organisations on 9 June 2020 to request input on these requests, in accordance with the process established by the States Parties;
5. Following guidance from the Swiss Office of Public Health regarding COVID-19 social protection measures to limit the spread of the virus. The Committee held several virtual meetings to continue to engage with States Parties regarding the implementation of their Article 5 obligations.

- a. On 30 April 2020, the Committee sent a letter to States Parties that were due to submit an extension request but had not yet done so, seeking information regarding the status of their extension requests. The Committee noted that the global health emergency caused by COVID-19 may have posed additional challenges to the development and subsequent submission of extension requests by the 31 March 2020 deadline and invited the States Parties to provide information concerning the circumstances which may have delayed the submission of the extension requests and the current status of progress of extension requests.
 - b. On 15 May 2020, the Committee received a letter from Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the delay in submission of its extension request due to the difficult situation caused by COVID-19 and the need to focus on related emergencies. Bosnia and Herzegovina also indicated that it was not able to finalise the work due to the new Commission for Demining not being appointed to approve the request. Bosnia and Herzegovina added that it was not able to provide an exact date for the submission of its extension request.
 - c. On 4 June 2020, the Committee hosted a virtual meeting with Eritrea to discuss progress and challenges related to the submission of Eritrea's extension request.
6. The Committee continued the process of updating the publication entitled, "Understanding Mine Clearance in the Context of the AP Mine Ban Convention" in order to update the guidance provided to States Parties on the Implementation of Article 5, with particular reference to the understandings and decisions that the Meetings of States Parties have taken subsequent to its initial publication in 2012.
 7. In the lead up to the Intersessional Meetings, the Committee worked on the development of preliminary observations based on information submitted by the States Parties. The methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations is based on the Committee's mandate to review relevant information on Article 5 implementation and takes into consideration the Committee's new mandate to review relevant information on information provided by the States Parties on implementation of commitments contained in the Oslo Action Plan.
 8. The Committee further worked on supporting States Parties in their preparations for the Intersessional Meetings, including through providing guidance on presentations and templates to assist in presenting extension requests during the Intersessional Meetings. The Committee also took steps to arrange bilateral meetings with States Parties submitting Article 5 extension requests in 2020. These meetings are planned to take place during the Intersessional Meetings.

II. Methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations

9. The Committee is mandated to "review relevant information on Article 5 implementation submitted by States Parties, including in the context of Article 7 obligations and on efforts undertaken under Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance."
10. The Committee is further mandated to "review relevant information provided by the States Parties on implementation of the commitments contained in the Oslo Action Plan" and to "consider matters related to gender and diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work."

11. In preparing its observations, the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties in 2020 in the context of Article 7 reporting, information contained in requests for extended deadlines submitted in 2020, information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests such as in updated work plans and any additional information provided in writing by States Parties on Article 5 implementation.

12. In line with its purpose of intensifying efforts to ensure the full implementation of Article 5, and in an effort to build upon the approach established in 2015, taking into account the adopted Oslo Action Plan, the Committee gave particular attention to the following:

- a. Increased clarity regarding progress made and remaining implementation challenges, with this clarity being encouraged through Article 7 reports, Article 5 extension requests and information provided pursuant to decisions taken on requests;
- b. Improvements in the measurability of Article 5 implementation over time, with improvements in the quality of information permitting greater understanding and comparability;
- c. Efficient and expedient implementation of evidence based and costed national work plans to achieve completion with commitments to apply the most relevant land release standards and methodologies and including provision for sustainable “capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion”;
- d. Delivery of context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk based on needs assessment and tailored to the threat encountered by the population;
- e. Integration of gender and consideration of the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in work plans and strategies.

13. Given the subject matter covered in Oslo Action Plan Actions #18 to #32, the Committee proceeded to prepare observations on the following matters:

- Clarity on progress in implementation
- Clarity regarding remaining challenges
- Implementation of national plans for clearance and survey
- Application of land release standards, policies and methodologies
- National information management systems
- Actions related to commitments in extension requests and decisions on requests
- Mine risk reduction and risk reduction efforts
- Integration of gender and consideration of the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities

14. In reviewing information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation, the Committee noted different degrees of clarity regarding the location of all areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. As a result, the Committee has used terminology in its preliminary observations in the following manner:

- a. “High degree of clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines 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.

- b. “Clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to regions / provinces / districts within the State, with this list including the number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and the number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State, and the estimated size of the area concerned per region / province / district.
- c. “Some clarity” has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

15. Preliminary Observations were not drafted for States Parties submitting extensions as they are undergoing a more detailed extension request process, which will result in an analysis of their request for extension and status of Article 5 implementation.

16. In the same manner, observations were not drafted for States Parties that have declared completion ahead of 30 April. The Committee, in cooperation with the relevant State Party, works to ensure implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties and contained in the document submitted by the Committee entitled *Reflections and understandings on the implementation and completion of Article 5 mine clearance obligations*¹ concerning the submission of detailed voluntary declarations of completion.

III. Information provided by States Parties on Article 5 implementation

16. At the close of the Fourth Review Conference, 33 States Parties had reported having an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention.

17. Since the Fourth Review Conference, one State Party – Chile – has informed the Committee that on 27 February it completed its obligations under Article 5.

18. Since the Fourth Review Conference, Mauritania, as State Party that declared completion of its obligations under Article 5 on 29 November 2018, has informed the Committee that it has discovered previously unknown mined areas.

19. Of the 33² States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, until 16 June 2020 the following had provided information on progress in implementation:

- a. Of the 33 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, as of 8 June 2020, 19 States Parties - Angola, Argentina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Oman, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - submitted Article 7 transparency reports containing updated information on implementation of Article 5.

¹ APLC/MSP.17/2018/10

² Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

- b. Of the 4 States Parties - Croatia, Serbia, Sudan and the United Kingdom – that were due to submit updated work plans by 30 April 2020 pursuant to decisions taken on their requests for extended deadlines, two States Parties – Sudan and the United Kingdom - submitted updated work plans by 30 April 2020. Serbia subsequently submitted its work plan on 12 May 2020]. Croatia communicated to the Committee that it expects submission by July 2020.
 - c. Of the 8 States Parties - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan and Ukraine - with Article 5 deadlines in 2020/2021, which would be required to submit a request for extension for consideration by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties should they not be in a position to declare completion by their respective deadlines, as of 16 June 2020 5 have submitted their requests for extension: Colombia (19 March 2020), Niger (8 June 2020), Senegal (16 June 2020) South Sudan (27 March 2020) and Ukraine (28 May 2020).
 - d. In addition, the following State Party; Mozambique - submitted information pertaining to the status of implementation of Article 5 and current inaccessible areas.
20. Of the 33 States Parties in the process of fulfilling obligations under Article 5, as of 8 June 2020 14 did not submit Article 7 reports: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and the State of Palestine.

V. Observations of a general nature

21. The Committee welcomes the information submitted by States Parties as well as the engagement with the Committee during bilateral meetings, which has allowed for a cooperative dialogue to take place between the Committee and the States Parties.
22. The Committee observes that, as of 16 June 2020, there has been a slight increase in the number of reports (19) submitted by States Parties reporting an obligation under Article 5 compared to last year. The Committee further noted, in many cases, an increase in the quality of the reports submitted by States Parties. The Committee recalls that submission of an Article 7 report on an annual basis is an obligation under the Convention.
23. The Committee recalls that of the 13 States Parties that have not submitted reports in 2020, Eritrea, Niger and Nigeria have not submitted an Article 7 report for the last 6 years (Eritrea), 2 years (Niger) and 8 years (Nigeria).
24. The Committee continues to be concerned about States Parties with Article 5 obligations that have not submitted their Article 7 transparency reports and emphasises the importance of the submission of outstanding reports in order to inform the States Parties of progress in implementation and to allow the Committee to develop its conclusions. In this regard, the Committee recalls Action #49 of the Oslo Action Plan: “Any State Party implementing obligations in particular under Article 4 or 5, or retaining or transferring mines in line with Article 3 that has not submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing these obligations each year will provide in close cooperation with the ISU an annual update on the status of implementation in line with Article 7 and will provide information to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. If no information on implementing the relevant

obligations for two consecutive years is provided, the President will assist and engage with the States Parties concerned in close cooperation with the relevant Committee”.

25. The Committee noted that 15 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Oman, Serbia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and Yemen - are still in the process of carrying out survey activities to gain greater clarity on their remaining challenge.
26. In this regard, the Committee observed that a number of States Parties continue to face challenges in implementing their Article 5 obligations due to a number of factors including large areas pending to be addressed, funding challenges and security concerns. The Committee noted that it is essential for States Parties to continue to clearly report on the challenges they face in implementing their Article 5 obligations. The Committee further notes that States Parties facing challenges in implementation could consider taking part in the Convention’s Individualized Approach led by the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.
27. The Committee observed that the information provided by 16 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Oman, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe - on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous reporting, and disaggregated information on progress in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Guide to Reporting. The Committee observes that, in a number of cases, progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States implementing Article 5 obligations used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS (i.e. “confirmed hazardous area”, “suspected hazardous area”; disaggregating data by activity that is non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance; reporting progress according to the result of each activity where land is cancelled, reduced or cleared). The Committee notes that direct engagement with concerned States Parties is needed to ensure the proper use of this terminology.
28. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, and Zimbabwe - employed the Guide to Reporting, which supported their efforts to provide clarity concerning their remaining challenge and progress made (Action #8). The Committee continues to encourage States Parties with Article 5 obligations to employ the Guide to Reporting, which could be of considerable assistance in providing clarity concerning progress and status in implementing Article 5 obligations, and progress in implementation of commitments included in the Oslo Action Plan (Action #8).
29. The Committee observed that 11 States Parties - Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe - had provided a high degree of clarity on their remaining challenge; 4 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia and Turkey - provided clarity; and 3 States Parties - Oman, Ukraine and Yemen - provided some clarity (Action #18). The Committee observed that the majority of States Parties reported progress in a manner that was comparable with that provided previously, with particular reference to information provided in States Parties’ extension requests and updated work plans.
30. The Committee observed that 10 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported on the integration of Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans (Action #1). The Committee observed that 17 States Parties – Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention (Action #1).

31. The Committee observed that 18 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Oman, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported having evidence based and, in many cases, costed national strategies and work plans for clearance and survey in place, including information provided by States Parties in their extension requests and updated work plans (Actions #2, #19).
32. In this regard, the Committee observed that 17 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe - had already or were in the process of reviewing or updating their national standards in line with the International Mine Action Standards in a manner consistent with Action #5 of the Oslo Action Plan. The Committee observed that 16 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported having an information management system in place (Action #9). The Committee observed that 17 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe - reported on their steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect (Action #27).
33. The Committee observed that 18 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Oman, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported adjusted milestones to their national work plans based on new evidence. The Committee noted the importance of States Parties annually updating their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports, including the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established (Action #20).
34. The Committee observed that 2 States Parties – Iraq and Yemen - indicated in their Article 7 Reports that they are affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature. The Committee encourages States Parties affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to ensure they apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention (Action #21).
35. In addition to anti-personnel mines, a number of States Parties face challenges associated with other explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance. In these States Parties, efforts to implement Article 5 are part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards. The Committee observes that, this being the case, it is important that States Parties continue to disaggregate information on their contamination in order to ensure clarity concerning the remaining challenge.
36. The Committee observed that a majority of States Parties who had submitted extension requests had acted upon the decisions and recommendations of the States Parties in granting these requests, including through the submission of updated work plans and updated information regarding commitments in implementing their Article 5 obligations (Action #22).
35. The Committee recalls that States Parties that discover mined areas, including newly mined areas, after their original or extended deadline to implement Article 5 has expired, must apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties concerning such situations. The Committee recalls the importance of States Parties adhering to this decision.

36. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported on efforts to ensure a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion that may be discovered following completion of their Article 5 obligations (Action #26).

37. Acknowledging the valuable contribution of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the Committee notes that States Parties requiring assistance are invited to engage directly with the ISU in order to benefit from its advice and support in matters concerning the implementation of Article 5.

VI. Mine Risk Education and Reduction

38. The committee observed that 17 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported on the actions they have taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines through the implementation of mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in their Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).

39. The Committee observed that 10 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Yemen - reported on efforts to integrate mine risk education and reduction programmes into wider humanitarian, development, protection and education programmes (Action #28).

40. The Committee observed that additional information on implementation of the mine risk education and reduction programmes actions of the Oslo Action Plan could be provided, notably on efforts to provide context specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and are sensitive to gender, age, disability, and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account (Action #29).

41. The Committee observed that 5 States Parties - Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe - had reported on their efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking these programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty data (Action #30). The Committee encourages more States Parties to provide information on this matter. The Committee observed that 5 States Parties - Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, South Sudan and Zimbabwe - reported on efforts to build a national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes (Action #31). The Committee welcomes further information from the States Parties on this Action.

VII. Gender and the diverse needs of affected communities

42. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe - had reported on efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation (Action #3). The Committee would welcome further information on the specific steps and efforts taken by the States Parties to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform their efforts to implement their mine action programmes.

43. The Committee noted the commitment of States Parties to provide context-specific mine risk education / reduction programmes that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. In this regard, the Committee welcomed information from 8 States Parties - Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe – concerning their efforts to deliver context-specific risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk, and would further welcome information on the specific steps and actions taken by the States Parties to ensure mine risk education and reduction programmes are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account (Action #29).

Table 1: Information on progress in implementation of Article 5 of the Convention as reported in 2020 - Article 7 Transparency Reports (submitted up to 16 June 2020)

		Reported Progress made				Reported Remaining Challenge					
		Cancelled (m²)	Reduced (m²)	Cleared (m²)	Total (m²) ¹	Number of SHAs	Suspected Hazardous Area (m²)	Number of CHAs	Confirmed Hazardous Area (m²)	Total number of mined areas to be addressed	Total areas to be addressed (m²) ²
1	Afghanistan										
2	Angola	11,199,573	754,616	1,922,541	13,876,730	73	3,237,941	981	84,792,985	1'054	88,030,926
3	Argentina ³										
4	Bosnia & Herzegovina										
5	Cambodia	26,924,403	7,510,682	20,936,706	55,371,791	9,539	817,087,387			9,539	817,087,387
6	Chad										
7	Colombia										
8	Croatia	3,335,994 ⁴	3,894,443	38,859,668	46,398,985 ⁵						309,701,017
9	Cyprus ⁶										
10	Democratic Republic of the Congo										
11	Ecuador										
12	Eritrea										
13	Ethiopia	318,216,508	10,306,621	1,757,947	330,281,076	123	722,548,937	29	3,519,538	152	726,068,475
14	Iraq ⁷	35,133,307	5,867,102	42,970,229	87,148,310 ⁸	177	48,785,368	1,604	1,190,398,809	1'781	1,239,184,177
15	Mauritania										
16	Niger										
17	Nigeria										
18	Oman				130,100						
19	Peru	28,530	26,600	81,948.15	137,078.15			108	369,212	108	369,212
20	Senegal										
21	Serbia				606,210	6	1,125,310			6	1,125,310
22	Somalia										
23	South Sudan	18,138,175	19,946	1,003,647	19,161,768		9,328,668		2,866,060		12,194,728
24	Sri Lanka										
25	State of Palestine										
26	Sudan		6,127,357	876,568	7,003,925	43	10,877,444	52	2,402,260	95	13,279,704
27	Tajikistan	880,304	302,570	535,311	1,718,185	85	4,186,138	169	7,770,328	254	11,956,466
28	Thailand	128,442,103	13,594,778	95,278	142,132,159	172	203,644,612	82	14,549,633	254	218,194,245
29	Turkey	6,099,493	136,472	672,725	6,908,690	162	150,418,408				150,418,408
30	Ukraine										
31	United Kingdom				10,347,213 ⁹			4	226,958	4	226,958
32	Yemen					326				326	12,995,161
33	Zimbabwe	466,419	8,590,447	2,759,476	11,816,342			7	42,692,666	7	42,692,666

Table 2: Information provided by States on implementation on relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan

				Relevant Action of the Oslo Action Plan – Mine Clearance																		
	State Party	Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2019 ¹⁰	Level of clarity ¹¹ on the remaining implementation challenge (Action #18)	1	2	3	5	8	9	18	19	20	21	22	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	
1	Afghanistan																					
2	Angola	√	Clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√				√	
3	Argentina	√																				
4	Bosnia & Herzegovina																					
5	Cambodia	√	Clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
6	Chad																					
7	Colombia	√	Clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	√	√		√	√	
8	Croatia	√	High degree Clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√	
9	Cyprus																					
10	Democratic Republic of Congo																					
11	Ecuador																					
12	Eritrea																					
13	Ethiopia	√	High degree of clarity		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√					√	
14	Iraq	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	
15	Mauritania																					
16	Niger																					
17	Nigeria																					
18	Oman	√	Some clarity		√					√	√	√										
19	Peru	√	High degree of clarity		√		√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√					√	
20	Senegal																					
21	Serbia	√	High degree of clarity		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	√				√	
22	Somalia	√																				
23	South Sudan		High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
24	Sri Lanka																					
25	State of Palestine																					
26	Sudan	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√			√	
27	Tajikistan	√	High degree of clarity		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√				√	
28	Thailand	√	High degree of clarity		√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√			√	
29	Turkey	√	Clarity		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√					√	
30	Ukraine	√	Some Clarity	√	√		√		√	√	√	√				√					√	
31	United Kingdom	√	High degree of clarity		√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√		√					√	
32	Yemen	√	Some Clarity	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				√	
33	Zimbabwe	√	High degree of clarity	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		

¹ The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on areas released in a disaggregated manner.

² The total of this column is not always the cumulative total of the columns concerning suspected and confirmed hazardous areas given that some States Parties have not presented information on the remaining challenge in a disaggregated manner.

³ In 2010, Argentina reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Argentina to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Argentina had indicated that it did not have effective control over the areas in question.

⁴ The figure for Croatia's non-technical survey includes a total 3,112,829 square metres cancelled and an additional area of 223,165 square metres identified and cancelled during non-technical survey, for a total of 3,335,994 square metres.

⁵ The total figure for Croatia includes an additional area cancelled during non-technical survey of 233,165 square metres and 298,880 square metres cleared by the Ministry of Defence.

⁶ In 2013, Cyprus reported that the sole circumstance that impeded the ability of Cyprus to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control was that Cyprus had indicated that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question.

⁷ The figures for Iraq include disaggregated land release of anti-personnel mines and anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature.

⁸ The total figure of land release reported for Iraq includes 90 IED areas measuring a total of 3,177,672 square metres that was not presented in a disaggregated manner, and as such is included in the total.

⁹ The United Kingdom reported that 10,347,213 square metres had been addressed since the submission of its 2018 extension request.

¹⁰ Source: Information provided by States Parties in their Article 7 reports submitted until 8 June 2020, unless otherwise noted. Article 7.2: The information provided in accordance with this Article shall be updated by the States Parties annually, covering the last calendar year, and reported to the Secretary General of the United Nations not later than 30 April of each year". Accordingly, in order to accommodate States Parties, Article 7 Transparency reports were accepted for the benefit of this report up until 8 June 2020. Information submitted by States Parties after 8 June 2020 will be considered in the conclusions of the Committee submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties, (18MSP). The following States Provided Article 7 Reports.