

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

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Item 9(b)i 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**

**Conclusions and recommendations
Committee on Article 5 implementation
(Chile, Colombia, Netherlands and Switzerland)**

Addendum

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Afghanistan

I. Progress in implementation

1. Afghanistan reported that in 2017 it addressed 355 mined areas releasing 30,526,213 square metres with 1,729,047 square metres cancelled, 948,213 square metres reduced and 27,848,953 square metres cleared, destroying 14,624 anti-personnel mines, 286 anti-tank mines, 42,820 items of unexploded ordnance and 19 cluster munitions.
2. The Committee concluded that the information provided allowed for comparability with that provided in Afghanistan's 2012 extension request and welcomed Afghanistan employing the Guide to Reporting in reporting on progress in implementation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Afghanistan reported 2,130 mined areas totalling 224,668,487 square metres remaining to be addressed, including 1,833 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) totalling 127,064,652 square metres and 297 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHAs) measuring 97,603,835 square metres.
4. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Afghanistan will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Afghanistan will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.
5. The Committee noted that in addition to anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and other explosive remnants of war also pose extreme risks to the civilian population and to the implementation of development activities. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Afghanistan's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in Afghanistan. The Committee noted the importance of Afghanistan continuing to disaggregate the challenge of anti-personnel mine contamination.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. Afghanistan provided a detailed plan in its 2012 extension request, with it clearly indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost. The Committee noted that progress in 2017 did not reach projection outputs for clearance and survey. The Committee noted that Afghanistan had reported an additional 92.7 square kilometres of mined areas identified through non-technical survey.
7. The Committee noted that Afghanistan provided an updated projection of outputs for clearance and survey in each of the seven administrative regions contaminated with anti-personnel mines from 2018 to 2022, with an overall goal for Afghanistan to address 1,866 confirmed and suspect hazardous areas measuring 200,533,936 square metres: 63,944,350 square metres to be addressed in 2018, 36,618,050 square metres to be addressed in 2019, 45,294,509 square metres to be addressed in 2020, 30,090,847 square metres to be addressed in 2021, and 24,586,180 square metres to be addressed in 2022.
8. The Committee noted that, while Afghanistan anticipates releasing a considerable amount of area and number of areas annually leading to its deadline in 2022, the number of areas (1,866) and amount of area (200,533,936 square metres), falls short of the number of areas (2,130) and amount of area, (224,668,487 square metres) that Afghanistan has reported as remaining to be addressed. In this regard the Committee concluded that Afghanistan's commitment to review the work plan on a continuous basis was essential and

encouraged Afghanistan to regularly inform the States Parties of changes to the work plan, including on the impact of new hazards and re-survey on current capacities, annual clearance and survey plans.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

9. Afghanistan reported that the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards on Land Release were amended and updated in July 2013. The Committee noted that Afghanistan had attached the relevant AMAS chapter to their Article 7 report.

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

10. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan was acting upon the decisions of the 12MSP by providing updates relative to annual milestones for progress as contained in its extension request.

11. The Committee noted that Afghanistan's Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) was not conducted in 2017 due to a lack of funds. Afghanistan reported that MEIFCS remains to be implemented in 110 remaining districts. The Committee welcomes further information from Afghanistan on its efforts to implement the survey.

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. The Committee noted that this included marking of hazardous areas, as well as providing mine risk education (MRE) with a specific focus on returnees, scrap metal collectors, aid workers and internally displaced people.

13. The Committee noted that MRE activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

Angola

I. Progress in implementation

14. Angola reported provisional results of non-technical survey conducted in 18 provinces for the period June 2017 to April 2018, including 999 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) measuring 89,303,516 square metres and 221 suspect hazardous areas (SHAs) measuring 58,268,040 square metres.

15. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Angola on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that previously provided in its extension request presented to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP). The Committee concluded that it was essential that Angola report its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Angola could provide considerably more clarity regarding its progress in implementation by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

16. The Committee concluded that Angola had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The Committee noted that Angola is in the process of updating its database which includes incorporating information from its public entities including the National Demining Institute (INAD) and Executive Demining Commission (CED).

17. The Committee recalled that Angola in its request for extension granted at the 16MSP, reported a remaining challenge consisting of 1,246 CHAs measuring 149,518,827 square metres and 219 SHAs measuring 71,890,852 square metres.

18. The Committee concluded that cleaning up the database is an absolute priority for Angola as this will provide clarity and hence more credibility to the mine action programme. With database updates in process and survey activities ongoing, Angola's remaining challenge needs to 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 Angola would strongly benefit from using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS when present implementation progress.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

19. The Committee concluded that the information reported by Angola concerning the results of non-technical survey differs greatly from the information provided in Angola's extension request. The Committee noted that Angola had indicated in its request that non-technical survey was completed in Moxico and Uíge while the Article 7 report submitted by Angola indicated that these surveys are ongoing. The Committee would welcome information on the reason for these variations. The Committee further noted that the survey activities in Luanda Norte and Luanda Sul indicated in Angola's request for extension have commenced.

20. The Committee recalled that the 16MSP had requested Angola to submit to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

21. In its 2017 extension request, Angola reported that the methodologies employed are in compliance with IMAS and that all NGOs employ the same standards. The Committee recalled that the 16MSP had encouraged Angola to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques which could lead to Angola fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Committee would welcome further information from Angola regarding this matter.

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

22. The Committee recalled that the 16MSP had also requested Angola to provide updates with respect to a variety of additional commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee would welcome updates with respect to these commitments and milestones.

VI. Mine risk reduction

23. Angola reported that it had not implemented many mine risk education activities due to lack of funding. The Committee noted that it would welcome further information on Angola's Mine Risk Education strategy and updates on resource mobilisation efforts in support of these actions. The Committee would also welcome further information from Angola regarding the design of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive mine risk education activities, that are coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

Bosnia y Herzegovina

I. Progress in implementation

24. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 29.91 square kilometres of land was released in 2017, including 8.27 square kilometres reduced through technical survey and 0.82 square kilometres released through clearance with 1,749 anti-personnel mines, 20 anti-tank mines and 797 explosive remnants of war having been located and destroyed. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported 20.75 square kilometres having being declared as "area without defined risk".

25. The Committee noted a discrepancy in the area addressed by technical survey and clearance during 2017 with 9.16 square kilometres reported in Form C and 7,369,292 square metres reported in Form F.2.

26. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation did not allow for comparability with that previously provided. The Committee noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina using terminology and providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS.

27. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2017 that Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide considerably more clarity regarding its progress in implementation by employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

28. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 16,699 "minefield records" remain to be addressed located within three administrative areas containing an estimated 82,000 anti-personnel mines and items of unexploded ordnance. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported an estimated area known to contain anti-personnel mines of 95 square kilometres and an estimated area suspected of containing anti-personnel mines of 1,061 square kilometres.

29. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be further clarified by presenting more precise information, including through the use of table as set out in the Guide to Reporting, on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

30. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The request provided an updated summary of milestones to be achieved in the period of 2019-2020 including an estimated 164,000,000 square metres to be cancelled through non-technical survey, 26,000,000 square metres reduced through technical survey and 2,000,000 square metres to be released through clearance. The work plan also includes a “country assessment” to be carried out by BHMAL to establish a more realistic baseline for planning, improve its information management capacity and continue carrying out survey and clearance activities in accordance with its annual priorities. Bosnia and Herzegovina will submit a request for extension by 31 March 2020.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

31. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that methods for release of suspect and confirmed hazardous areas are defined through national standards and standard operational procedures in accordance with the IMAS. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that in cooperation with its partners it had commenced the process of revision of all mine action standards and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina which are currently in the process of being adopted by the Demining Commission. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on the status of these standards and SOPs.

32. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported a draft Demining Law having been forwarded to the Council of Ministers for adoption. The Committee further recalled the BHMAL also initiated the process of drafting its Exit Strategy of Mine Action (2019-2025) to be adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2017. The Committee would welcome updated information on the progress of these matters.

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

33. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested that Bosnia and Herzegovina provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 9MSP noted that, while the plan presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina’s request was workable and ambitious, its success was contingent upon increased performance in technical survey, a high level of donor funding and the sustained and increasing availability of funds provided by local government. The Committee concluded that many of these matters remain pertinent to activities today and are addressed in the request submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

VI. Mine risk reduction

34. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including prioritisation of most impacted groups. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported it had taken measures to alert migrants to Mine/ERW/Cluster munitions risks. The Committee noted the actions taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the

needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

Cambodia

I. Progress in implementation

35. Cambodia reported that, 1,191 areas were released in 2017 measuring 95,272,760 square metres, including 28,243,926 square metres cancelled, 16,540,150 square metres reduced, and 50,488,685 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 5,465 anti-personnel mines and 18,560 other explosive items. Cambodia further reported that in 2017 the baseline survey was on-going in 41 districts and had identified 885 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 123,936,377 square metres.

36. Cambodia reported that for the period 2014-2016 40% of land contaminated with landmines was released by Non-Technical Survey and 60% through Technical Survey and clearance.

37. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Cambodia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that previously provided and welcomed Cambodia employing the Guide to Reporting in reporting on progress in implementation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

38. The Committee noted that Cambodia provided clarity on its remaining challenge. Cambodia reported 9,695 SHAs remaining measuring 910,429,177 square metres.

39. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing annual updates on the impact of baseline survey efforts on annual projections and Cambodia's Article 5 deadline would be welcome.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

40. The Committee noted that Cambodia's Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 was adopted in December 2017. The Committee noted that the strategy projects to release 894,868,065 square metres of area known or suspected to be contaminated with landmines, with annual milestones addressing 111.8 square kilometres per year.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

41. Cambodia reported that the Cambodian Mine Action Standards (CMAS) on land release (CMAS 15) were approved in October 2014. Cambodia further reported that the baseline survey is a standalone process to re-survey and re-verify suspect hazardous area, and is not part of land release process defined in CMAS 15.

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

42. The Committee recalled that the 2009 Second Review Conference 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 commitments made in its extension request to develop and thereafter revise a single national clearance plan that takes into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators.

VI. Mine risk reduction

43. Cambodia reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines through national security sector, international INGOs and local self-help organisations, benefiting over 500,000 people. The Committee noted that beneficiary figures were disaggregated by sex and age and that Mine Risk Education activities are tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities with the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority providing training to all operators towards this goal.

Croatia

I. Progress in implementation

44. Croatia reported that it released 36,485,259 square metres of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in 2017, including 6,600,192 square metres reduced through general survey and 29,885,067 square metres cleared. These efforts resulted in the destruction of 1,393 anti-personnel mines, 40 anti-vehicle mines and 4,419 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO). In addition, the Croatian Armed Forces reported clearance of military facilities measuring 481,900 square metres, destroying in the process 279 items of UXO.

45. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Croatia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously. The Committee further concluded that Croatia could more clearly present implementation progress by using terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, IMAS.

46. With regard to the areas addressed by the Armed Forces, the Committee concluded that progress could be presented more transparently, despite an understandable level of confidentiality.

47. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide increased clarity by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

48. The Committee concluded that Croatia had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Croatia reported that, as of the end of 2017, 411.5 square kilometres located in 9 counties remained to be addressed and 32.66 square kilometres of known or suspected area located near military sites. Croatia's remaining challenge consists of 269.51 square kilometres of confirmed hazardous area, and 141.95 square kilometres of suspect hazardous area estimated to contain 32,830 anti-personnel mines and 6,441 anti-vehicle mines.

49. The Committee concluded that Croatia could provide additional clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of the remaining confirmed and suspected hazardous areas in each county, with this list including each area's estimated size, status (i.e., "known" or "suspected") and geographic location. The Committee would further welcome increased information on the areas located near military installations.

50. The Committee also concluded that with survey activities ongoing, Croatia's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on

the number of areas and size of these areas to be addressed. The Committee welcomes further information from Croatia on the impact of survey on annual milestones and deadline for completion.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

51. The Committee noted that Croatia submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee noted that the request contained an updated work plan including tables and annual milestones for completion by 1 March 2026 (54.4 square kilometres in 2019, 53.7 square kilometres in 2020, 55.5 square kilometres in 2021, 57.2 square kilometres in 2022, 58.6 square kilometres in 2023, 58.2 square kilometres in 2024, and 49.7 square kilometres in 2025).

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

52. The Committee recalled that in its 2008 extension request, Croatia provided a detailed description of its land release methods in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards based on the IMAS. The Committee also recalled that in May 2016 a new law “Regulations on how demining, quality control, non-technical and technical surveys and marking of suspected hazardous areas” entered into force. The Committee concluded that information on how the law will impact progress towards completion would be welcome.

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

53. The Committee recalled that the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) had requested Croatia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled specifically that the 9MSP had requested Croatia to provide updates on its methodology to address SHAs in forested areas. The Committee further recalled Croatia reported to be working on technology for hyperspectral non-technical survey employing unmanned aerial vehicles with the aim to better analyse and define SHAs in forested areas. Reiterating its 2016 and 2017 conclusions, the Committee concluded that further information on these methodologies would be welcomed.

VI. Mine risk reduction

54. Croatia reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines including 77 lectures and presentations conducted with 27,890 citizens. Croatia also reported 26,800 people were educated through 66 lectures of the, ‘Less Arms, less tragedy’ campaign conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and relevant police departments. Specific MRE was also given to a variety of associations and users of forested areas, including tourists. The Committee noted the actions taken by Croatia in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

Cyprus

I. Progress in implementation

55. Cyprus reported in 2012 that the sole circumstance that impeded its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas reported to be under its jurisdiction or control – namely that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question – has not changed and that it was not aware of any progress. 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

56. Cyprus reported that, since July 2013, there are no anti-personnel mines on the territory under its effective control. 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, with one of these areas located within the buffer zone, in the vicinity of the village Deryneia.

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

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

58. 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.

59. The Committee noted that Cyprus submitted a request for extension on 2 February 2018 for 3 years, until 1 July 2022, for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.

Mozambique

60. The Committee recalled that on 17 September 2015 Mozambique declared that it had completed the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control. The Committee further recalled that in declaring completion, Mozambique indicated that in the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Mozambique will act in accordance with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) on a Rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed.

61. Mozambique reported that following two accidents in which one boy was injured and another killed, Mozambique undertook an investigation in the concerned area. The investigation led to the identification of previously unknown mined areas in Nangade district, in Cabo Delgado, along the border with Tanzania, sometime after the Completion Declaration. Mozambique subsequently reported these areas and with the support its partner

APOPO and in cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid addressed a total of 127, 522 square metres, out of which 11,218 square metres were cancelled, 86,326 square metres were reduced and 29,979 square metres were cleared, destroying in the process 107 anti-personnel mines and 1 unexploded ordnance. Mozambique reported that the task was successfully completed in June 2017.

62. In declaring completion, Mozambique indicated that 9 suspected mined areas remained on their records submerged under water on account of the major flooding of 2000, diverting the Limpopo River. Mozambique reported that there may be very little probability that mines would be detected in those submerged areas. Since declaring completion, Mozambique reported that five of these areas became accessible in 2016 and that technical survey resulted in their subsequent cancellation.

63. Mozambique reported that four areas measuring 1,888 square metres remain inaccessible. Mozambique reported that these mined areas are continuously monitored and will be addressed once the water level recedes and access is gained for their clearance. Mozambique further reported its commitment to continue including these areas in its transparency report and keep the States Parties informed on the status.

64. The Committee observed that Mozambique could provide increased clarity concerning the remaining challenge and the progress made by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

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

Serbia

I. Progress in implementation

66. Serbia reported that in 2017 it addressed 275,800 square metres of suspect hazardous area (SHAs) through clearance in Bujanovac municipality destroying 3 anti-personnel mines and 1 item of unexploded ordnance. Serbia also reported that it is currently conducting technical survey on a second project measuring 113,600 square metres.

67. 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.

68. The Committee welcomed Serbia employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

69. The Committee concluded that Serbia had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Serbia reported that a total of 12 SHAs totalling 2,354,540 square metres remained to be addressed in six localities of Bujanovac municipality.

70. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Serbia will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Serbia will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

71. The Committee noted that Serbia submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The request includes a work plan for completion including projected annual milestones to be addressed including, a total of 2 mined areas in 2018 measuring 649,000 square metres, 3 mined areas in 2019 measuring 462,400 square metres, 2 mined areas in 2020 measuring 467,880 square metres, 2 mined areas in 2021 measuring 269,240 square meters, 1 area in 2022 measuring 291,400 square metres and 2 areas in 2023 measuring 214,620 square metres.

72. Serbia reported that funds for demining operations in 2017 were allocated from the Serbian State budget, which the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) matched with US funding. These funds were allocated for technical survey of five projects measuring 995,200 square metres. Serbia reported that it had completed one project and is currently conducting technical survey on a second mined area; with a further three projects to be implemented based on securing funds from donors and other sources of funding.

73. Serbia reported that it will double its allocation of funding from the State budget for demining operations in 2018. In this regard, the Committee concluded that Serbia has committed to increase its financial resources to fulfil its obligations during the requested extension period.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

74. Serbia provided a description of the methods used to release areas suspected to contain mines. The Committee concluded that Serbia would benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.

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

75. The Committee noted that Serbia submitted an updated work plan to the Committee in March 2016. Serbia reported that the lack of adequate financial resources as one challenge confronting Serbia in completing its Article 5 obligations by 1 March 2019. The Committee noted that Serbia had a plan to increase contributions from its State budget for demining operations in 2018 and that this demonstrated greater national ownership in this regard. The Committee welcomes annual updates on Serbia's national contribution to fulfil its Article 5 obligations and concluded that it was acting upon the decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP).

76. The Committee noted that in this context, using all resources and techniques available, Serbia could be in a position to proceed with implementation much faster than suggested and that this would benefit both the Convention and Serbia. The Committee recalled that in granting the request, the 13MSP had noted the importance of external support to ensure implementation and that Serbia could benefit from developing a resource mobilisation strategy, and welcomes further information from Serbia on possible resource mobilisation strategies that take into account the need to reach out to a wide range of national and international funding sources.

VI. Mine risk reduction

77. Serbia has reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Serbia reported that contaminated areas are visibly marked with warning signs in Serbian and Albanian languages. Serbia further reported that affected communities are informed about demining activities, including through schools and other media. The Committee noted the actions taken by Serbia in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

Thailand

I. Progress in implementation

78. Thailand reported that in 2017 it addressed a total of 42 suspect hazardous areas (SHA) located in 16 districts of 9 Provinces, releasing 30,979,269 square metres, including 26,450,492 square metres cancelled, 4,115,068 square metres reduced and 413,705 square metres cleared destroying 5,664 anti-personnel mines and 237 other items of unexploded ordnance.

79. The Committee noted a minor discrepancy in the amount of area reported released in 2017 with 30,948,474 square metres also being reported as released in 2017. The Committee would welcome clarification on this discrepancy.

80. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with information provided in its 2017 extension request. The Committee welcomes that Thailand reporting a manner consistent with IMAS.

81. The Committee welcomed Thailand employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

82. The Committee concluded that Thailand provided clarity on its remaining challenge. Thailand reported that during the reporting period an additional SHA measuring 30,795 square metres was identified. Thailand reported that as of 31 December 2017, 279 SHAs located in 29 districts, of 13 provinces, totalling 391,656,698 square metres remain to be addressed. The Committee noted that Thailand has classified its remaining challenge as SHAs that can be operated/surveyed measuring 42,946,771 square metres and SHAs that are currently inaccessible due to pending demarcation process measuring 348,709,927 square metres.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

83. The Committee observed that Thailand planned to address 67 SHAs measuring 71,152,827 square metres in 2018 with a remaining challenge after 2018 consisting of 215 SHAs measuring 306,985,681 square metres.

84. The Committee would welcome information on Thailand's progress to complete Phase 1 by 1 November 2018.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

85. Thailand reported that in 2017 it had re-established the National Committee for Mine Action under the Order of the Prime Minister, with the Prime Minister as its chairperson.

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

86. The Committee observed that Thailand had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2017 extension request granted at the 16MSP. The Committee recalled Thailand's commitment to submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request.

87. The Committee further recalled that the decision of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties had requested Thailand to keep the States Parties informed on progress in updating the National Mine Action Standards in line with the latest version of IMAS and the results of this effort in addition to other matters. The Committee would welcome updates with respect to these commitments and milestones.

VI. Mine risk reduction

88. The Committee observed that Thailand has reported in detail on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including by raising awareness and promoting behavioural changes through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities. Thailand reported that its MRE programmes reached 41,913 people in 2017.

89. The Committee concluded that the information on MRE messaging and beneficiaries provided by Thailand was not disaggregated by gender and age and encourages Thailand to disaggregate statistics in this manner. The Committee welcomes further information on Thailand's efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.

Turkey

I. Progress in implementation

90. Turkey reported that in 2017 it addressed 19 mined areas, releasing 8,482,671 square metres, including, 7,583,110 square meters cancelled, 75,445 square metres reduced and 824,116 square metres addressed through clearance resulting in the destruction of 61,508 anti-personnel mines and 1,026 anti-tank mines.

91. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Turkey on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous information provided. The Committee also welcomed Turkey employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

92. The Committee concluded that Turkey had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Turkey reported a total of 3,061 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 164,082,568 square metres containing 718,663 anti-personnel mines and 194,649 anti-tank mines, and 701 suspect hazardous areas remaining to be addressed.

93. The Committee also concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Turkey will be further clarified following survey of SHAs at which time Turkey will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

94. Turkey reported that five new demining companies have been approved by the Ministry of Defence, with three of those planned to be operational by the end of 2018, with the remaining companies in 2019. Turkey also reported that Phase 2 of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project would commence on 20 June 2018 with the plan to release 1,200,000 square metres.

95. Turkey reported that the National Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2019-2021 is expected to be approved and published in 2018. The Committee would welcome information on the milestones for progress in mine clearance leading towards Turkey's 1 March 2022 deadline for implementation of Article 5.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

96. Turkey reported that it had prepared and submitted the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) including land release policy to the National Standards Institute of Turkey and are expected to be approved in 2018. The Committee would welcome further information on the timeline for approving national standards, as well as the standards and methodologies to be employed.

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

97. In submitting its updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension as decided by the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) by March 2015, Turkey indicated that this work plan would be finalised by the National Mine Action Centre, 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 would welcome ongoing updates from Turkey on its plan to implement Article 5.

98. The Committee further concluded that Turkey was complying with all decisions of the 13MSP by keeping the States Parties informed of progress in the clearance of mined areas in areas other than borders and by submitting an update on developments in the establishment of the NMAA and the NMAC; this includes enactment of National legislation that places the TURMAC under the Directorate of General Plans and Principles of the Ministry of National Defence.

VI. Mine risk reduction

99. Turkey reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas. Turkey reported that the Turkish Ministry of Education

provides mine risk education in territories where mine risk exists and takes into consideration age, sex and other relevant classifications.

United Kingdom

I. Progress in implementation

100. The United Kingdom reported that Phase 5a of demining / land release operations began in 2016 and continued into 2017. The United Kingdom reported that 33 suspect hazardous areas (SHAs) were addressed in 2017 at Goose Green and Stanley Area destroying in the process, 2,700 anti-personnel landmines.

101. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if the United Kingdom used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the IMAS. The Committee further concluded that the United Kingdom could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

102. The Committee concluded that the United Kingdom had provided a high level of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. The United Kingdom reported an estimated area of 5,557,380 square metres remaining to be addressed, with the size of other SHAs to be determined.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

103. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom submitted a request for extension in 2018 for consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. The request includes a work plan indicating that all remaining areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines will be addressed in two phases: Phase 5a, (November 2016 - March 2018) and Phase 5b (April 2018 – March 2020). The report further highlights that 18 mined areas contained within Phase 5a Cluster 2 have been technically surveyed with clearance to take place in Phase 5b with Phase 5b aiming to address 42 mined areas in 4 clustered geographical areas (Cluster 3: 2 mined areas measuring 2,570 square metres; Cluster 2: 19 mined areas measuring 390,680 square metres; Cluster 4: 10 mined areas with an area yet to be determined, and; Cluster 5: 6 mined areas measuring 5,557,380 square metres with an additional 5 mined areas with a size yet to be determined).

104. The Committee noted that the United Kingdom expects to deal with all remaining areas within Phase 5b expect for mined areas located at Yorke Bay for which funding will be sought once the extent of the cost of clearance is known and clearance ensured within the extended deadline.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

105. The United Kingdom reported that on the Islands meets or exceeds the IMAS, by adapting them to meet the specifics of the situation found on the Islands. It also applies local environmental and planning regulations.

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

106. 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 was acting upon the decisions of the 9MSP.

VI. Mine risk reduction

107. The United Kingdom reported that fences and minefield marker warnings are placed around all CHAs and SHAs, and that school children are given regular risk awareness sessions, and that visitors to the islands are given warnings, as appropriate.

Zimbabwe

I. Progress in implementation

108. Zimbabwe reported that in 2017, a total of 6,218,692 square metres was released; including 1,768,118 square metres cancelled, 2,794,713 square metres reduced and 1,655,861 square metres cleared destroying in the process 30,533 anti-personnel mines, 4 anti-tank mines and 2 items of unexploded ordnance.

109. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with annual milestones provided in their 2017 extension request.

110. The Committee welcomed Zimbabwe employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

111. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Zimbabwe reported that as a result of technical survey operations its remaining challenge increased by 1,782,579 square meters. Zimbabwe reported that 7 mined areas totalling 61,793,990 square meters remain to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

112. Zimbabwe provided a detailed work plan in its 2017 extension request leading towards completion by its 31 December 2025 deadline. Zimbabwe provided an updated summary of annual areas to be addressed including 7,160,645 square metres in 2018; 8,013,488 square metres in 2019; 8,337,429 square metres in 2020; 8,987,429 square metres in 2021; 8,865,123 square metres in 2022; 7,973,777 square metres in 2023; 6,727,746 square metres in 2024, and; 5,828,353 square meters in 2025.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

113. Zimbabwe reported that it had drafted and approved its National Strategic Plan, for the period of the extension request (2017-2025). Zimbabwe reported applying the full range of available means to efficiently and expediently release areas containing anti-personnel mines including piloting mechanical clearance and the use of animal detection systems.

Zimbabwe reported that following the application of these methodologies the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre and the National Mine Action Authority had submitted their recommendations but that official authorisation is yet to be given. Zimbabwe further reported that the tools will continue operating in the pilot window to keep pace with targets.

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

114. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in the 2017 decision by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties on its extension request. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe was complying with the commitments contained therein.

115. The Committee recalled that in the decision of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, States Parties requested Zimbabwe to provide an update on the relocation of the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre out of military cantonments. Zimbabwe reported that the Government had approved ZIMAC to be provided appropriate accommodation and funds mobilised for this purpose.

116. The Committee further recalled that in the 16MSP noted that the convention would benefit from Zimbabwe submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2019, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension.

VI. Mine risk reduction

117. Zimbabwe reported that mined areas are marked with fences and clear boundaries, with clearance organisations and MRE teams placing markings on critical areas and areas where operations are taking place. Zimbabwe reported that funding constraints restricts wholesome renewal and maintenance of the warning signs and markings. Zimbabwe reported that MRE is carried out during exhibition shows at district, province and national levels. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe collected sex and age disaggregated data on beneficiaries, reaching a total of 11,982 girls, 3,546 women, 11,312 boys and 2,142 men during 2017.
