

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia (Chair), Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom)

Intersessional Meetings 18 – 20 June 2024

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY ANGOLA

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #20, #22)

1. Angola reported that in 2023 it addressed 10,604,144 square metres, including 720,044 square metres cancelled, 3,930,644 square metres reduced and 5,953,456 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 4,445 anti-personnel mines, 1,807 anti-vehicle mines, 1,562 items of unexploded ordnance, and 1,590 items of abandoned explosive ordnance.
2. Angola also reported that the public operator National Demining Centre (CND) and the national non-governmental organisation (APACOMINAS) carried out land release activities in support of socio-economic development projects in areas not registered in the IMSMA database addressing a total of 53,653,105 square metres, including 3,129,594 square metres cancelled, 27,499,504 square metres reduced, and 23,024,007 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 122 anti-personnel mines, 118 anti-vehicle mines, 5,957 items of unexploded ordnance, and 12,585 items of abandoned explosive ordnance.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Angola on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2018 updated work plan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Angola's 2018 updated workplan. The Committee welcomed Angola providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, employing the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and disaggregated by type of contamination (Action #8, Action #22).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

4. The Committee observed that Angola provided some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Angola reported a remaining challenge of 1,016 mined areas measuring 67,432,189 square metres in 18 Provinces, including 936 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) measuring 65,157,718 square metres and 80 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHAs) measuring 2,274,471 square metres. (Action #22)
5. The Committee welcomed Angola reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by SHAs and CHAs. (Action #22)

¹ "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.

6. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources, no later than by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021. The Committee observed that Angola was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Angola on these efforts. (Action #18).
7. The OAP requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee noted that, while Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020-2025 indicated that, "gender and diversity are taken into consideration in the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of all mine action projects, promoting equality and quality", Angola had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #18)

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)

8. The Committee recalled that Angola's updated work plan submitted in 2018 contained a national evidence based and costed plan for survey and clearance for the period 2019-2025 in which Angola projects to annually address 164 mined areas measuring 17,210,199 square metres (Action #2, Action #19). Angola further reported having a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period 2020-2025. (Action #2)
9. The OAP requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidenced and report on adjusted milestones. The Committee observed that Angola had not provided information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #20)
10. Angola reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation and that international financial commitments also contributed towards implementation. (Action #1)
11. Angola reported on its efforts to include convention implementation activities in development plans, including the role of CND in carrying out land release activities in support of public investment projects. Angola also reported that the Government of Angola has determined that technical survey and clearance should always be carried out before public and private investment projects such as: roads, hydroelectric dams, photovoltaic plants, airports, power transmission lines, industrial poles and mega projects of agriculture and land reserves to ensure safety in the implementation of such projects. (Action #1, Action #6)
12. The OAP requests States to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes. The Committee observed that Angola had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #3)
13. The OAP requests States to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. The Committee observed that Angola had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #26)

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

14. Angola reported on its efforts to keep National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with IMAS, including the update of three NMAS, i) risk education, ii) victim assistance and iii) monitoring of demining activities. The Committee welcomes the information shared by Angola and would welcome further information on the proposed timeline and process of approval of the NMAS. (Action #5)
15. Angola reported on its efforts to maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation, including that from 2024, the CND will actively participate in the clearing of mined areas recorded in the database and will continue to support these projects. In these operations, all areas that are identified as mines will be registered in the national database as new areas. (Action #9)
16. Angola reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including an institutional capacity building project which resulted in several operational results, including; training of ANAM staff, improvement of coordination mechanisms, acquisition of equipment, and monitoring and management of Mine Action information. (Action #27)

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

17. In considering Angola's 2017 extension request, the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) requested Angola to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Angola on;
 - Progress made relative to the annual clearance plans, commitments and milestones contained in Angola's extension request;
 - Efforts made to strengthen the technical and operational capacities of the operations office in planning, monitoring and evaluation;
 - The number, location and size of remaining mined areas, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas and information on areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey;
 - Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Angola to support implementation efforts, and the results of these efforts; including efforts to ensure that mine action is considered within national development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit Angola's resource mobilisation efforts;

The outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Angola's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge;

 - Efforts made to strengthen the involvement and the coordination of activities with the Executive Demining Commission (CED), and the result of these efforts;
 - Progress made regarding efforts to resolve and eliminate problems related to data discrepancies, harmonization of the data of the CED and the National Demining Centre and efforts to ensure the integrity of the national mine action database; and
 - Efforts made to strengthen the implementation of the quality management system and results of efforts to update the norms and standards of management and quality control.
18. The committee recalled that the 16MSP further 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. The Committee observed that Angola had acted on the decisions of the 16MSP by submitting an updated workplan.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)

19. The OAP requests States to Report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee observed that while Angola reported on the results achieved disaggregated by gender and age, Angola had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on the methodologies used and would welcome further information in this regard.
20. The OAP requests States to integrate Mine Risk Education and Reduction (MRE/R) with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey and clearance activities. The Committee observed that while Angola reported that risk education is implemented in all 18 Provinces of Angola, with greater emphasis on communities living near mined areas, and by all humanitarian operators during their clearance operations, the Committee would welcome further information on Angola's efforts to integrate MRE/R into wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts.
21. The OAP requests States to provide context-specific MRE/R for all affected populations and groups at risk. To ensure if such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment and that they 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. The Committee observed that Angola had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #29)
22. The OAP requests States to prioritise people most at risk by linking MRE/R and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. The Committee observed that Angola had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #29)
23. The OAP requests States to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered. The Committee observed that Angola had not provided updated information in its Article 7 report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #29)

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

24. The Committee observed that Angola provided quality information on challenges in implementation, national financial constraints and a lack of resources for implementing risk education activities, and the identification of new mined areas that has made it somewhat difficult to complete demining in some provinces, particularly in the municipality of Lucala Cuanza Norte Province. (Action #8)

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Angola
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#2	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
#3	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#5	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						The Committee would welcome information on Angola's efforts on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men.
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						The Committee would welcome information on Angola's efforts to annually update their national work plans based on new evidenced and report on adjusted milestones.
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						

#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						
#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						The Committee would welcome information on Angola's efforts to include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans.
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas						
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties						
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means						

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						The Committee would welcome information on Angola's efforts to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey and clearance activities.
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						The Committee would welcome information on Angola's efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk.
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						The Committee would welcome information on Angola's efforts to ensure if such programmes were developed on the basis of a needs assessment that they 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.

#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes					The Committee would welcome information on Angola's efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements.
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered					The Committee would welcome information on Angola's efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including the delivery of such programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results					

