

## 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 BURKINA FASO

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

1. The Committee recalled that Burkina Faso, in its initial transparency report submitted on 4 December 2000, reported that there are no mines laid on the territory of Burkina Faso, and there are no mined areas.
2. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso in its Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2024 reported that since 2015, Burkina Faso has witnessed the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (IED) by terrorist armed groups.
3. Burkina Faso reported that IEDs have not been used like conventional mines to create minefields. However, the presence of 2 or 3 IEDs, sometimes more, in one single area has been noted, in particular on supply routes and on routes used by Defence and Security Forces, as well as in close proximity to areas where civilian population live. The devices are discovered by the Defence and Security Forces during operations as well as by the civilian population.
4. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and welcomes Burkina Faso's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination, including, to the extent possible, the disaggregation of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature from other types of improvised explosive devices. (Action #21)
5. The Committee welcomed Burkina Faso acting in accordance with the commitments made at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties as contained in the paper "Proposed rationale response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed," to immediately inform all States Parties of such a discovery and shall undertake to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area as soon as possible."
6. The Committee welcomes the updated information from Burkina Faso and encourages Burkina Faso to provide further information on progress and challenges in implementing the Convention, to report progress in implementation in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance), and by employing the Guide to Reporting. (Action #8, Action #22).
7. The Committee recalled the importance for Burkina Faso, in the case that Burkina Faso will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference (whichever falls earlier), should submit a request for an extended deadline, which should be as short as possible and no more than ten years, either to that Meeting or Review Conference if the timing of the discovery permits or to the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference if the timing of the discovery does not

permit, in accordance with the obligations enshrined in Article 5 and the process for submission of requests for extensions agreed to at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee would encourage Burkina Faso to submit a request for extension by no later than 31 March 2025 for consideration by the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties. The Committee further encourages Burkina Faso to seek the support of the Implementation Support Unit and its national partners in drafting such a request.

8. The Committee also recalled the importance of States Parties concerned by this decision to continue to fulfil their reporting obligations under Article 7 of the Convention, including the obligation to report on the location of all mined areas that contain or are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines under their jurisdiction or control and on the status of programs for their destruction, and that each State Party should also continue to provide updates relative to these and other commitments at meetings of the Standing Committees, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences.

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

9. Burkina Faso reported that IED attacks have mainly affected the Sahel, East, Center-North, North, Boucle du Mouhoun, Cascades, Center-West and Center-East regions, and that IEDs also affect other regions of the country.
10. The Committee encourages Burkina Faso to provide additional information on its efforts and challenges in identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and establishing evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources, including through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men (Action #18).
11. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee encourages Burkina Faso to provide updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #18)
12. The Committee noted the importance of Burkina Faso reporting in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination. (Action #22)

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

13. The Committee welcomed Burkina Faso reporting that a number of coordination mechanisms have been established to address the IED threat, and a national counter-IED strategy is in development. The Committee would welcome further information on Burkina Faso's efforts to address the humanitarian impact of improvised anti-personnel mines.
14. Burkina Faso reported that it is difficult to carry out non-technical and technical surveys for a precise mapping of incidents. Burkina Faso further reported that monitoring of incidents is occurring and allows Burkina Faso to have an idea of the threat, the types of incidents in each area and also the areas most threatened according to statistics is carried out.
15. The OAP requests States to report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #1)

16. The OAP requests States to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #1)
17. The OAP requests States to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between the mine action community and relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, development and human rights communities, bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #6)
18. 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 Burkina Faso had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #3).
19. 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 Burkina Faso 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)**

20. Burkina Faso reported that 12 National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) have been validated. The Committee welcomes the update from Burkina Faso and would welcome further information on the proposed timeline and process of approval of the NMAS. (Action #5)
21. The OAP requests States to establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. The design and implementation of information management systems will ensure that they are nationally owned, sustainable and take into account the need for data that can be accessed, managed and analysed post-completion. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #9)
22. Burkina Faso reported on its efforts to take appropriate 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, including the update of national standards and national structures. The Committee welcomed the update provided by Burkina Faso and would welcome additional information in this regard. (Action #27)

#### **IV. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #18-32)**

23. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso had reported on its efforts to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, and its efforts to raise awareness among vulnerable communities, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by region, gender and age. The Committee also observed that the report included other information, in particular on the needs and challenges encountered during victim assistance. (Action #32)

24. The OAP requests States to integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities to reduce the risk to the affected population and decrease their need for risk-taking. The Committee observed that while Burkina Faso had reported on undertaking risk education with resources of the State and partners, The Committee observed that Burkina Faso had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #28)
25. The OAP requests States to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk. Ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #29)
26. The OAP requests States 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. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #30)
27. Burkina Faso reported on its efforts to build a national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes, including the national authority with the technical support of UNMAS established a mine action working group to harmonize EORE messages and to coordinate the actions of relevant actors. Burkina Faso also reported that risk education is carried out through the Defence and Security Forces, the Ministry of Communication, the SP/CNCA, national and international NGOs, risk education sessions on explosive devices, emphasizing in particular IEDs, are conducted in Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso further reported that risk education tasks are distributed by the Permanent Secretariat of the National Arms Control Commission. (Action #31)

#### **Challenges in implementation (Action #8)**

28. The Committee observed that Burkina Faso had provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including that mine action, particularly with regard to improvised antipersonnel mines, is a new area for Burkina Faso and consequently, almost all national structures working towards the implementation of the Convention lack material and financial resources and adequate training, and that assistance is required for a better implementation of the Convention.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker

Article 5 Implementation

Burkina Faso

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						The Committee would welcome information on Burkina Faso's efforts to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans.
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						The Committee would welcome information on Burkina Faso's efforts to 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						The Committee would welcome information on Burkina Faso's efforts 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.
	# 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						The Committee would welcome information on Burkina Faso's efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between the mine action community and relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, development and human rights communities, bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						The Committee would welcome information on Burkina Faso's efforts to provide quality information on progress and challenges in implementing the Convention, employing 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						The Committee would welcome information on Burkina Faso's efforts to establish and maintain a national information management system containing



#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 further information on Burkina Faso'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 Burkina Faso's efforts to integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities to reduce the risk to the affected population and decrease their need for risk-taking.
#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 Burkina Faso's efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to 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 Burkina Faso's efforts to ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and that they 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 Burkina Faso'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,



