

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

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

#### Intersessional Meetings 18-20 June 2024

#### PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY GUINEA - BISSAU

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

1. Guinea-Bissau reported that in 2023 it implemented the following activities, i) acquired information technology equipment to support the setting up of a new information management system, ii) fundraising for the period 2024.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Guinea-Bissau on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that provided in its 2022 extension request. The Committee welcomed Guinea-Bissau employing the Guide to Reporting. (Action #8)
3. The Oslo Action plan (OAP) further requests States to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had not provided information on its efforts to implement in this regard and would welcome additional information. (Action #22)

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

4. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau provided some clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Guinea-Bissau reported a remaining challenge of 52 mined areas, including 9 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) measuring 1,093,840 square metres located in 5 Regions, and 43 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) of unknown size located in 6 Regions. Guinea-Bissau also reported the presence of 28 'ad hoc' explosive ordnance disposal tasks. (Action #22)
5. The Committee welcomes Guinea-Bissau reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas. (Action #22)
6. The OAP requests States that have not yet done so will 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 recalled that that Guinea-Bissau had reported the results of assessments of mined areas and that these assessments form part of Guinea-Bissau's efforts to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, in an effort to establish an evidence-based, accurate baseline of contamination. The Committee observed that

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<sup>1</sup> "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, and district within the State.

Guinea-Bissau was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information on these efforts. (Action #18)

7. The OAP requests States to report on efforts to establish its baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had not provided information on its efforts to implement in this regard and would welcome additional information. (Action #18)

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

8. The Committee recalled that Guinea-Bissau in its 2022 extension request submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, (20MSP) indicated having a national mine action plan in place for the period 2022-2024, including projected completion of national non-technical survey and re-survey of confirmed hazardous areas. Guinea-Bissau further indicated that the survey is planned for a period of 2 years. The Committee welcomed the updated information from Guinea-Bissau and would welcome further information on the proposed timeline and process of approval of the survey. (Action #2, Action #19)
9. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau in its 2024 extension request submitted to the Fifth Review Conference indicated annual updates to their national work plans based on new evidenced and report on adjusted milestones, including a detailed work plan for the period of the request, including a table with key objectives, including non-technical survey to be completed during the period 2024-2025- (Action #20)
10. The OAP requests States to report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had not provided information on its efforts to implement in this regard and would welcome additional information. (Action #1)
11. 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 Guinea-Bissau had not provided information on its efforts to implement in this regard and would welcome additional information. (Action #1)
12. The OAP requests States to Strengthen partnerships and integrated 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 Guinea-Bissau had not provided information on its efforts to implement in this regard and would welcome additional information. (Action #6)
13. 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 Guinea-Bissau had not provided information on its efforts to implement in this regard and would welcome additional information. (Action #3)
14. 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 Guinea-Bissau had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #26 and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #26)

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

15. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date, including development of national mine action standard on information management and mine risk education. (Action #5)
16. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national information management system, including workshop, development of data collection forms based on international mine action standards and informed by the national context. (Action #9)
17. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to take appropriate steps to improve effectiveness and efficiency, including in the development of data collection tools to support survey and mine risk education activities and would welcome further information of Guinea-Bissau's efforts in this regard. (Action #27)

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

18. In considering Guinea-Bissau's 2022 extension request, the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) requested Guinea-Bissau to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Guinea-Bissau on:
  - Information on progress in building the capacity of CAAMI, including the establishment of an information management system, the development of national mine action standards in accordance with IMAS, and preparations for survey and clearance activities;
  - Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
  - Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Guinea-Bissau to support implementation efforts; and
19. The Committee would welcome updated information from Guinea-Bissau on the following decisions of the 20MSP:
  - Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Guinea-Bissau's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance);
  - Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of mined areas and amount of area to be addressed manually and how priorities have been established;
  - The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and how additional clarity obtained may change Guinea-Bissau's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;
  - Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities; and

- The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes.

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

20. The OAP requests States to report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee observed that while Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to train community liaison and information management experts on risk education, based on national mine action standards and informed by international mine action standards, resulted in 8 community liaison offices and 2 team leaders accredited to implement risk education activities, and the creation of a call-line for members of the population to communicate information on accidents, and the location of explosive devices, including a radio promotion campaign to raise awareness of the hotline. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had not provided updated information on the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #32)
21. The OAP requests States to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau had not provided information on its efforts to implement in this regard and would welcome additional information. (Action #28)
22. The OAP requests States to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk. 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 are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee observed that while Guinea-Bissau had reported on its efforts to train community liaison staff and identify priority communities, into account aspects related to gender and diversity, as well as groups at risk. The Committee would welcome further information on Guinea-Bissau'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 would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #29)
23. 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 while Guinea-Bissau had reported on its efforts to deploy community liaison staff to are the 9 communities where the presence of hazards has been confirmed, as well as the 43 areas where contamination is suspected. The Committee would welcome further information on Guinea-Bissau's efforts to understand of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #30)
24. Guinea-Bissau reported on its efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes, including the training and accreditation of non-government organisation NADEL and staff from CAAMI. The Committee welcomes the update from Guinea-Bissau and would welcome further information on Guinea-Bissau's efforts to ensure a national capacity is in place 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. (Action #31)

## **VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)**

25. The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including inability to revisit known or suspected mined areas for survey, and loss of data prior to 2013, and that the State of Guinea-Bissau is not able to finance its work plan for the period 2024-2027, that Guinea-Bissau had received partial contributions Bissau and is seeking additional partners to support mine action activities. (Action #8)

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Guinea - Bissau**  
**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
<b>#1</b>	# 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 further information from Guinea-Bissau on Its efforts to include Convention implementation activities in 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 further information from Guinea-Bissau on Its efforts to make national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention
<b>#2</b>	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
<b>#3</b>	% 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 further information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, by promoting, at all stages of its programme, gender and diversity inclusion.
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
<b>#5</b>	% 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						
<b>#6</b>	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
<b>#8</b>	# 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						
<b>#9</b>	% 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)						The Committee observed that Guinea-Bissau was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						The Committee would welcome further information from Guinea-Bissau on its efforts to report 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						
	# 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 further information from Guinea-Bissau on its 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						
<b>MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION</b>							
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 Guinea – Bissau’s efforts to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts.
#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 Guinea – Bissau’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 Guinea – Bissau’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.
#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 Guinea-Bissau’s efforts to understand of the affected population’s behaviour, risk.
#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 Guinea-Bissau’s efforts to build national capacity 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						

