

## 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 SOUTH SUDAN

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

1. South Sudan reported that in 2023 it addressed 10 mined areas measuring 580,402 square metres, including 20,527 square metres cancelled and 559,875 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 86 anti-personnel mines and 82 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. South Sudan also reported 3 newly identified mined in 3 States measuring 119,133 square metres, including 10,000 in Upper Nile Central Equatoria, 140,502 square metres in Central Equatoria, and 28,809 Eastern Equatoria square metres in Eastern Equatoria.
3. The Committee observed that South Sudan in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 indicated 1.7 square kilometres of mined areas in the area of Canal and Khor Fulus are currently underwater, representing 31% of the known anti-personnel mine contamination. South Sudan also indicated that it would continue to mark, where possible, all known and suspected mined areas in the location. South Sudan further indicated that it would continue to deliver risk education to those populations living and working around these mined areas. The Committee welcomes the update from South Sudan and would welcome continual updates on the monitoring and response to these flooded areas.
3. The Committee observed that information provided by South Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2022 updated work plan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in South Sudan's 2022 updated work plan. The Committee welcomed South Sudan providing information on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, using 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 South Sudan reported a high degree of clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). South Sudan reported a remaining challenge of 114 mined areas measuring 5,315,105 square metres, including; 69 CHAs measuring 2,988,573 square metres and 45 SHAs measuring 2,326,532 square metres. (Action #22).

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<sup>1</sup> "High degree of clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas (known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "known" or "suspected"), and information on the geographic location of each area.

5. The Committee welcomed South Sudan reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHA and CHAs and their relative size, and type of contamination. (Action #22)
6. The Oslo Action Plan (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 observed that South Sudan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from South Sudan on these efforts. (Action #18)
7. The Committee observed that South Sudan in its updated workplan submitted in 2024 indicated that survey, hazard, and completion reporting forms were strengthened to ensure greater gender representation and enhance the consultation of women, girls, and boys during surveys and consultation on the baseline. (Action #18)

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

8. The Committee recalled that South Sudan's extension request in 2022 updated work plan included a national evidence based and costed plan for survey and clearance in place (Action #2, Action #19). South Sudan reported a new National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period of 2024-2028. (Action #2)
9. South Sudan reported adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including information on the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually for the period 2024-2026 of 4,589,000 square metres; including; 1,374,000 square metres in 2024, 1,638,000 square metres in 2025, and 1,577,000 square metres by mechanical mine clearance in 2026. (Action #20)
10. South Sudan reported on its efforts to making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention, including meeting with the Chairperson of the Security sector of the National Legislative Parliament to ensure South Sudan contributes to national clearance efforts to meet the clearance deadline 2026. (Action #1)
11. South Sudan reported on its efforts to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by integrating Convention implementation activities into the national development strategy. (Action #1, Action #6)
12. South Sudan reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation, including that all mine action implementing partners are required to have mixed gender teams as per the national technical standards and guidelines (NTSG). South Sudan also reported an increase in female personnel across the sector, and that the National Mine Action Authority, with support from international partners conducted a consultative workshop with relevant stakeholders to develop a gender quality policy for approval in 2024, and that the new South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy, (2024-2028), has integrated gender, diversity, equality, and inclusion. (Action #3)
13. The Committee observed that South Sudan in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 indicated that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including seeking funding to enable an independent entity to implement a project to train, equip and mentor the NMAA and to support it taking the lead in coordinating the response to new reports of hazardous items. (Action #26)

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

14. South Sudan reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS, including significant revisions to national standards for land release and road clearance. (Action #5)
15. South Sudan reported on its efforts 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, including the transition from IMSMA New Generation to the IMSMA CORE database platform. (Action #9)
16. South Sudan reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance including updates to national technical standards and guidelines, and the continued assessment of deploying mechanical and manual demining assets to mined areas. (Action #27)

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

17. In considering South Sudan's 2020 extension request, the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) requested South Sudan to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by South Sudan on:

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in South Sudan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period, providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS 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 and in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);
- The impact of annual progress on annual targets as given in South Sudan's work plan including adjusted milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- Updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

18. The Committee would welcome updated information from South Sudan on the following decisions of the 18MSP:

- Progress on security-related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;
- Efforts made to reconfigure personnel to form larger teams and the results of these efforts;
- Updates regarding the structure of South Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion, and:
- Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of South Sudan to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to

strengthen the capacity of the National Mine Action Authority and facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities.

19. The Committee recalled that in considering South Sudan's 2020 extension request, the 18MSP requested South Sudan to submit to the States Parties periodic updated detailed work plans with the first of these being submitted by 30 April 2022, and the second by 30 April 2024, for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee observed that South Sudan had acted on the decisions of the 18MSP by submitting an updated work plan in 2022 and 30 April 2024.

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

20. South Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R) the methodologies used, including use of the school curriculum, and community liaison activities, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age. (Action #32)

21. South Sudan reported that MRE/R is fully integrated into survey and clearance activities and incorporated into school curriculum with the support of UNICEF through the Ministry of General Education, as well as the Protection Cluster, and the humanitarian response plan. (Action #28)

22. The Committee observed that South Sudan in its updated workplan submitted in 2024 indicated that a Knowledge-Attitude-Practice (KAP) Survey to refine risk education strategies and approaches is planned for 2024-2025 in order to establish a baseline for developing more effective, targeted risk education programs, with a goal to complete these initiatives by June 2026. The Committee welcomes the update from South Sudan and encourages South Sudan to provide updated information on the outcome of the survey. (Action #29)

23. South Sudan reported that MRE/R activities are planned taking into account the information collected from the pre and post evaluations assessments and an analysis of casualty data which responds to at-risk groups, including emergency response to populations living at the vicinity of unplanned explosive at munitions store, children, returnees and refugees. (Action #30)

24. South Sudan reported risk education mine action partners have initiated Community Focal Points and peer-to-peer activities. (Action #31)

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

25. The Committee observed that South Sudan provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including seasons becoming more irregular and less predictable that poses challenge to planning and no climate change measures put in place to prepare for risks to communities. South Sudan also report that logistical and security challenges remain to hinder clearance in the country. South Sudan also reported that efforts have been put in place by National Mine Action Authority to consider allocating budget for clearance all has not been possible, and that the government is unable to pay salaries of the civil servants for many months in 2023. (Action #8)

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**South Sudan**  
**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						
	% 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 South Sudan's efforts to report making 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						
	# 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 South Sudan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from South Sudan on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who 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						

	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						
#26	% 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						
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						
	% 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						
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction 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						

