

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 THE STATE OF PALESTINE

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

1. The State of Palestine reported progress in implementation for the period 2016 – 2023. The State of Palestine reported for the period 2015-2022 it addressed a total of 17 tasks measuring 237,888 square metres through clearance in 5 districts, in the process destroying 958 anti-personnel mines, 159 anti-tank mines, 16 items of unexploded ordnance and 120 DR(?).
2. The State of Palestine also reported in 2023, it addressed 2 tasks in the district of Jenin and 2 tasks in the Jordan Valley district measuring 85,629 square metres, in the process destroying 33 anti-personnel mines, and 26 anti-tank mines. The State of Palestine also reported addressing 4 tasks measuring 213,788 square metres in the Jordan Valley, and 8 tasks measuring 109,186 square metres in the compounds of Churches.
3. The State of Palestine reported 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.
4. The Committee observed that the information provided by State of Palestine on progress in implementation allowed for some comparability with that previously reported. The Committee welcomed the State of Palestine providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by type of contamination. The Committee further encourages the State of Palestine to report employing the Guide to Reporting. (Action #8, Action #22)

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

5. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine provided some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). The State of Palestine reported a remaining challenge of 65 suspected mined areas located on the border with Jordan measuring 18,510,889 square metres, and in 2023, like that in 2012, 16 known mined areas measuring 604,634 square metres remain to be addressed. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine reported that the sole circumstance that impeded its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas reported to be under its

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, and district within the State.

jurisdiction or control – namely that it did not have effective control over the remaining areas in question. (Action #22)

6. The Committee welcomed the State of Palestine 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)
7. 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 the State of Palestine was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and 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. (Action #18)
8. The OAP requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #18)

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

9. The OAP requests States to develop evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans to fulfil and implement Convention obligations as soon as possible. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #2)
10. The OAP requests States to develop evidence-based and costed national work plans, including projections of the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually to achieve completion as soon as possible, and no later than their Article 5 deadline, to be presented at the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2020. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #19)
11. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine reported annual updates to their national work plan based on new evidence and reported on adjusted milestones including plan to address 4 tasks measuring 373,512 square metres in the Jordan Valley. (Action #20)
12. The State of Palestine reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including being responsible for the funding of the Palestine Mine Action Centre headquarters and salaries of its staff (Action #1).
13. 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 and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities as appropriate. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #1)
14. The Oslo Action Plan 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 the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #6)

15. The Oslo Action Plan 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, in order to deliver an inclusive approach. Strive to remove barriers to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #3)

16. 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 the State of Palestine 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)

17. The OAP requests States to keep national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), adapt them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #5)

18. 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 the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #9)

19. The OAP requests States 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. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #27)

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

20. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine reported on mine risk education and reduction activities for the period 2017-2024. The State of Palestine reported on its efforts to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, including the marking of mined areas and use of warning signs in Arabic, English and Hebrew languages, and that the signs are maintained and replaced periodically, and that awareness teams make visits to the most vulnerable populations, including the methodologies used, including lectures, electronic presentations, illustrations, and other awareness materials and with results achieved disaggregated by gender and age. (Action #32)

21. 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 would welcome further information on the State of Palestine's

efforts to integrate MRE/R into wider humanitarian, development, protection and education. (Action #28)

22. 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 while the State of Palestine reported that despite a lack of human and logistical resources to implement these important campaigns. That the staff of the PMAC have made efforts to raise awareness of the dangers of mines and explosive remnants of war in various Palestinian governorates and for different segments of the population, and that according to the strategic plan of the PMAC, financial, logistical and staffing support will be provided to complete awareness-raising activities for at least 60% of Palestinian communities adjacent to minefields and training areas by 2023, and for at least 85% by 2024. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to ensure if such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #29)

23. The State of Palestine reported that by the end of 2026, PMAC will have expanded its coverage in collecting data and managing information on individuals killed or injured by mines or remnants of war to include all northern governorates and have also collected information on approximately 90% of individuals killed or injured by mines or explosive remnants of war. The State of Palestine also reported that while the Palestinian Ministry of Health's Ambulance and Emergency Unit registers occupation-related injuries in general, it has not yet included "anti-personnel mines/other ERW" as one of the causes of injuries, however, studies will be conducted on indirect victims of minefields and all Palestinian communities adjacent to minefields. The Committee welcomes the updated information from the State of Palestine and encourages the State of Palestine to continue to report information on the implementation of Action #30, respectfully. (Action #30)

24. 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 the State of Palestine had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #31)

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

25. The Committee observed that the State of Palestine provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including, a lack of human resources for survey, and clearance and risk education activities, and a lack of equipment used to support survey, clearance and risk education activities, a lack of medical staff specialised in treating injuries caused by mines and remnants of war, and a lack of information and statistics related to the victims of mines and explosive remnants of war. (Action #8).

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
The State of Palestine
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee
#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 the State of Palestine's efforts to include 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						The Committee would welcome information on the State of Palestine's efforts to 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 the State of Palestine's efforts to 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						The Committee would welcome information on the State of Palestine's efforts to update 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 the State of Palestine's efforts to include 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						The Committee would welcome information on the State of Palestine's efforts to use the Guide to Reporting.
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						The Committee would welcome information on the State of Palestine's efforts to 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 the State of Palestine's 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.

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 would welcome information on the State of Palestine's efforts to establish 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 the State of Palestine's efforts to establish 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)						The Committee would welcome information on the State of Palestine's efforts to present 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 information on the State of Palestine'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							The Committee would welcome information on the State of Palestine's efforts to promote 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)
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#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 the State of Palestine'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 The State of Palestine'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 The State of Palestine'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						
#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 The State of Palestine'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						

