

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 TAJIKISTAN

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

1. Tajikistan reported that in 2023, it addressed 16 mined areas measuring 1,268,058 square metres, including 451,866 square metres cancelled, 402,401 square metres reduced and 413,791 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 1,121 anti-personnel mines, and 33 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO).
2. Tajikistan also reported that non-technical and technical survey was conducted on 22 minefields resulting in 12 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 607,807 square metres 10 minefields measuring 446,442 square metres released.
3. Tajikistan further reported 3 battle areas measuring 351,100 square metres were identified and registered.
4. Tajikistan reported that explosive ordnance disposal tasks resulted in the destruction of 6 anti-personnel mines, 1 anti-tank mine, 520 items of UXO, 27,823 small arms ammunition, and 16,6 kilograms of explosive agent.
5. The Committee observed that the information provided by Tajikistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2023 updated workplan. The Committee also observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Tajikistan's 2023 updated workplan. The Committee welcomed Tajikistan providing information in accordance with 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)

6. The Committee observed that Tajikistan had provided a high degree of clarity¹ on its remaining challenge (Action #18). Tajikistan reported a total of 134 mined areas measuring 7,542,275 square metres remaining to be addressed, including 125 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 6,594,275 square metres and 9 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 948,000 square metres. The Committee recalled that Tajikistan in its extension request submitted to the Fourth Review Conference in 2019 indicated that in the period 2011- 2015, Tajikistan conducted NTS activities in the Tajik side of the border with Uzbekistan. The surveys registered 82 mine accidents and 54 suspected hazardous areas in six of those districts with estimated size 3,250,000 square

¹ "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"), information on the geographic location of each area.

metres. The Committee would welcome further information on Tajikistan's efforts to address suspected mined areas in this region. (Action #22)

7. The Committee welcomed Tajikistan reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHAs and CHAs and their relative size, and type of contamination. (Action #22)
8. 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. The Committee observed that Tajikistan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and welcomes updated information from Tajikistan's on these efforts. (Action #18)
9. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to establish their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men, including Tajikistan Mine Action Program has increased its focus on gender mainstreaming connected to all activities that the program is currently undertaking. The program has also recognized more fully the importance of integrating gender and diversity considerations in mine action in order to realize the full potential of the program. (Action #18)

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

10. The Committee observed that Tajikistan has in place an evidence-based, costed, and time-bound national strategy for the period 2021-2030, including an updated work plan for the period of 2021-2025. (Action #2, #19)
11. Tajikistan reported annual adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually, 46 mined areas in Khatlon, the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous and Central Regions measuring 1,369,797 square metres in 2024, and 20 mined areas measuring 1,912,675 square metres in 2025. (Action #20)
12. Tajikistan reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of US \$56,710 to support humanitarian mine action and US \$480,000 in the form of technical and non-technical assistance was provided to facilitate the implementation of Tajikistan's obligations under the Convention. (Action #1)
13. Tajikistan reported that Convention implementation activities were integrated within relevant national development strategies that takes into consideration international commitments of the sustainable development goals. (Action #1, Action #6)
14. Tajikistan 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 and mine action programmes, including initiating gender mainstreaming to ensure equal access for women, men, boys, and girls in all aspects of its mine action program. (Action #3)
15. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including from 2021 that 4 non-technical survey and technical survey teams previously, the Tajikistan Sappers, who now perform operations in coordination with the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre. (Action #26)

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

16. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to keep National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS, including regular updates in 2022-2023 to address new challenges and ensure the use of best practices through the development of updated technical methodologies, guidelines and instructions in the form of attachments to NMAS. (Action #5)

17. Tajikistan 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 use of IMSMA core since 2019 as the national information management system and the intensive and functional use of online data collection forms, and information dissemination tools. (Action #9)

18. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including the hosting of a national mine action platform to ensure effective and efficient implementation of operational and technical measures as well as updates to 'Risk Assessment' and 'All Reasonable Effort' for the survey of hazard areas, the storage of explosives and ammunition, that were communicated to all implementation agencies. (Action #27)

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

19. In considering Tajikistan's request, the Fourth Review Conference (4RC) requested Tajikistan to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Tajikistan on:

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Tajikistan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared and their impact on annual targets as given in Tajikistan's work plan;
- Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available from Tajikistan's state budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts;
- Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities; and
- Updates regarding the structure of Tajikistan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

20. The Committee would welcome further information from Tajikistan regarding;

- Progress on the agreement between the Governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan regarding survey and clearance of areas on their common border, including information on the national institutions involved in the effort;
- Updates regarding the identification, recruitment, training and deployment of an additional 90 deminers and support personnel, including information on the gender and diversity of newly recruited personnel in line with Tajikistan's "Gender and Diversity Mine Action Strategy"; and
- Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land; including reporting outcomes concerning the feasibility and deployment of mechanical assets.

21. The Committee recalled that in considering Tajikistan's 2019 extension request, the 4RC requested Tajikistan submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2021 and by 31 October 2023, updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget. The Committee observed that Tajikistan had acted on the decisions of the 4RC by submitting an updated work plan to the 19MSP and the 21MSP.

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

21. Tajikistan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including warning signs in the language of the local population are installed in hazard areas and that community liaison activities are carried out, as well as formal trainings, community visits, supported by risk education materials, Tajikistan had not reported on the methodologies used, the challenges faced, with results disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #32).

22. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to integrate MRE/R with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, including the integration of mine Risk Education / Reduction activities into ongoing survey, clearance, and victim assistance activities, and that risk education activities are conducted with the population (schoolchildren, teachers' staff, community members, local authorities), and border forces staff in areas located close to contaminated areas before the start of survey and clearance operations, and that warning signs on mine/UXO hazard are installed in contaminated areas. Tajikistan also reported that while risk education is not included in the national education system, but as part of the annual plan, various activities are carried out with teachers and students, and that inspectors of the Ministry of Education and Science from targeted districts also involved in this work. Tajikistan further reported that the implementation of the risk education program is conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and are constantly being carried out in schools and other educational institutions located in the contaminated area under the coordination of TNMAC. (Action #28)

23. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk and to ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment and 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, including that risk education activities are conducted on the basis of needs assessment and prioritised based on the location of settlements and important infrastructure close to or in hazard areas, as well as evidence identified by local people and/or during survey as well as information provided by older people from communities, and that during demining NTS/TS staff, will hold meetings with the population to warn about the hazard of a specific area where land release is taking place. (Action #29).

24. Tajikistan reported on its 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, including field visits to inform shepherds, villagers, border guards, schoolchildren and local population on mine risk prevention and response with the participation. Tajikistan also reported that risk education activities are developed and conducted taking into account the population groups, for example in the form of cartoons and other materials for children, as well as with teachers and community

members, including shepherds, grass, and wood collectors, and MRE sessions are conducted in accordance with their level of activities. (Action #29)

25. Tajikistan also reported that regional trainings were conducted in the cities of Bokhtar and Kulob of Khatlon region, the Rasht valley, Khujand and Penjikent cities of Sughd region and in Khorog of GBAO, with the purpose to increase the knowledge of education inspectors, school principals and teachers, local authorities and community leaders, and that participants were provided with training materials for further organizing education and raising awareness at the local level. (Action #30)

26. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including 4 regional Training of Trainers (ToTs) with schoolteachers from Central, Sughd, Khatlon and GBAO regions to highlight risk education issues and disseminate training materials for schools, and that trained schoolteachers further transfer their knowledge to schools and community members of the settlements where they live. (Action #31)

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

27. The Committee observed that Tajikistan provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including that the information management database is set in the 'cloud' and requires a setting up a local server to keep the national database 'live'. Tajikistan also reported that the following challenges; security, climate, hard-to-reach mountainous areas, a short demining season, additional survey needs and funding, with priorities for survey and clearance, equipment and funding. (Action #8)

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker

Article 5 Implementation

Tajikistan

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) | | | | | | The Committee observed that Tajikistan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Tajikistan 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 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| #26 | % affected States Parties that 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 | | | | | | |
| #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 | | | | | | |

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| #32 | # States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results |  | |
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