

## **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 ZIMBABWE**

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

1. Zimbabwe reported that in 2023 it released 24 “sectors” of mined area measuring 2,305,246 square metres, including 19,806 square metres cancelled, 378,004 square metres reduced, and 1,907,436 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 37,330 anti-personnel mines, 1 anti-tank mine, and 34 items of explosive ordnance.
2. Zimbabwe also reported that as a result of survey an additional 166,815 square metres of mined area was identified.
3. Zimbabwe reported that the Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill was declared completed in 2023.
4. The Committee observed that the information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2019 updated work plan. The Committee observed that while progress in implementation was slightly below that projected in Zimbabwe’s 2022 Article 7 report, Zimbabwe reported to be above its expected land release target for the period of the workplan. The Committee welcomed Zimbabwe providing disaggregated information on progress 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)**

5. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe provided a high degree of clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Zimbabwe reported a remaining challenge of 5 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) categorised into 113 sectors measuring 16,164,297 square metres. (Action #22)
6. The Committee welcomed Zimbabwe reporting information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and CHA and their relative size. (Action #22)

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

7. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place for the period 2024-2025. Zimbabwe further reported having a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period of 2018-2025. (Action #2, Action #19)

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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”), information on the geographic location of each area.

8. Zimbabwe reported adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including information on the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually including 5,545,000 square metres in 2024, and 5,179,939 square metres in 2025. (Action #20)
9. Zimbabwe reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of US \$500,000. Zimbabwe also reported that the Ministry of Defence continues to pay for deployment and human resource expenses and that the government provides all funding for the National Mine Clearance Units (NMCU) through the national budget and that until the clearance process is completed, this funding will remain at its current level and possibly increase as the economy strengthens. (Action #1)
10. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities and that the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) is awaiting feedback from the government on its request to include mine action in the national development goals, and in particular efforts to emancipate remote communities and ensuring improved livelihoods as mine clearance frees up land for communities to use for development. (Action #1, Action #6)
10. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, highlighting that, while the National Mine Action Programme's gender and diversity policy has not yet been completed, women are employed in management positions and within international organisations. Zimbabwe also reported that women are being encouraged to fully participate in the programme and that all mine action data is disaggregated by women, girls, boys, and men ensuring that the needs and perspectives of the respective groups are considered. (Action #3)
11. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to develop a sustainable national capacity, highlighting that the NMCU can provide a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas following completion. (Action #26)

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

12. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date, noting that a revision of the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) in accordance with the latest IMAS was successfully completed in 2022, and that Zimbabwe will continue to align its NMAS with the most recent IMAS. (Action #5)
13. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to establish and maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system of contamination which is sustainable, highlighting that the Information Management department keeps a clear record of where the programme came from, where it is now, and where it is likely to go in terms of statistical data and that ZIMAC possesses a strong Quality Management system as well as risk education capabilities. (Action #9)
14. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance including the benefits of the deployment of mechanical assets and mine detection dogs in carrying out technical survey, and the procurement of new detectors. (Action #27)

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

15. In considering Zimbabwe's 2017 extension request, the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) requested Zimbabwe to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Zimbabwe on:

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Zimbabwe's annual clearance plan during the extension period;
- Updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including land release standards;
- Updated detailed annual plans for the implementation of its extension request based on new information gathered from progress in implementation;
- Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land, including reporting outcomes concerning two pilot projects concerning mechanical Assets and Mine Detection Dogs, and;
- Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Zimbabwe to support implementation efforts; Information on Zimbabwe's efforts to ensure that mine action is considered within national development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit Zimbabwe's resource mobilisation efforts.

16. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had also acted on the decisions of the 16MSP by providing information in line with the following decision of the 16MSP: Progress on Zimbabwe's commitment to relocate the ZIMAC outside of military installations which it successfully accomplished.

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

17. Zimbabwe reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, including implementation of mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R) including the methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age. (Action #32)

18. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to integrated MRE/R with wider efforts, highlighting that MRE/R is integrated into education, and ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities and that efforts continue to ensure the integration of MRE/R into the school curriculum. The Committee welcomes the information from Zimbabwe and would welcome further information on the proposed timeline and process of approval of the integration of risk education into the school curriculum. (Action #28)

19. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to provide context-specific MRE/R for all affected populations and groups at risk, highlighting that in all provinces explosive remnants of war continue to pose a major threat to people even far from landmine-contaminated areas, and that cattle are still occasionally injured and killed by mines. Zimbabwe also reported that grenades and mortar bombs mostly attract children, owing to their risk behaviour, kids pick them up and carry them before unintentionally activating them. A portion of these incidents are the result of ignorance, which is why all parties involved are urged to hold risk education sessions, and because people move and change locations frequently. Zimbabwe will keep using context-specific EORE as a component of a comprehensive national risk education strategy. (Action #29)

20. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk, including through MRE/R programmes that target local communities as part of survey, clearance activities, and that these activities are carried out with an understanding of the affected population's behaviour. Zimbabwe also reported that accidents may still occur in the upcoming years as a result of population movement and that while ZIMAC has been reaching all Provinces, it is necessary to develop a new plan based on OAP Actions #29 and #30 to guarantee that the messages are received nationwide.

21. Zimbabwe reported that, although clearance is moving along nicely to completely eliminate the risk, it will keep working with both domestic and international partners, including continued work with communities, to develop a strategy to reduce the number of cattle that stray into mined areas. (Action #30)

21. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to build national capacity, highlighting that the delivery of mine risk education and reduction programmes has been carried out by engineers of the Zimbabwean Army, and that the current national capacity needs to be examined and enhanced. (Action #31)

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

22. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including the welcoming of the additional funding in the form of equipment donations to the NMCU, invitation to the global community to develop a new plan based on OAP Actions #29 and #30. Zimbabwe also reported the following factors as posing risk during the remaining extension period, heavy rains and flooding, financing, overall economic and political climate. (Action #8)

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Zimbabwe**  
**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						
<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)	█	█	█	█	█	
	% 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						
<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 welcomes the information from Zimbabwe and would welcome further information on the approval timeline for integrating risk education into the school curriculum.
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						The Committee welcomes the information from Zimbabwe and would welcome further information on the timeline for the development of this strategy.
	% 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 further information from Zimbabwe on its effort to carry 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					