

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION BY ZIMBABWE

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Austria, Canada, Norway, Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings 30 June -2 July 2020

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

1. Zimbabwe reported that in 2019, it addressed 11,816,342 square metres, including 466,419 square metres cancelled, 8,590,447 square metres reduced and 2,759,476 square metres cleared destroying in the process 39,031 anti-personnel mines and 12 other items of explosive ordnance. Zimbabwe also reported that it discovered an additional 1,869,473 square metres of area during operations.
2. The Committee noted with satisfaction that progress reported by Zimbabwe is above the estimated amount of area projected by Zimbabwe to be addressed in its 2019 updated work plan. The Committee observed that information provided by Zimbabwe on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2019 updated work plan. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had improved the quality of information by reporting in accordance with IMAS and by using the Guide to reporting (Action #22, #8).

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

3. The Committee welcomes that Zimbabwe had provided a high degree of clarity on its remaining challenge (Action #18). Zimbabwe reported a total of 7 mine fields measuring 42,692,666 square metres remain to be addressed in five Provinces (Action #22).

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

4. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place (Action #2, #19). Zimbabwe reported it would address a total of 7,750,923 square metres in 2020, 7,542,723 square metres in 2021, 7,448,550 square metres in 2022, 6,069,806 square metres in 2023, 1,982,750 square metres in 2024, and 1,265,000 square metres in 2025 (Action #20).
5. Zimbabwe reported in detail on the linkages of mine action to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Committee welcomes the information provided by Zimbabwe on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and humanitarian response plans (Action #1).
6. Zimbabwe reported that in 2019 the Government of Zimbabwe approved the Communication and Resource mobilisation strategic plan; however, the launch is likely to be deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Zimbabwe also reported that the Government of Zimbabwe is considering increasing resources to the National Mine Clearance Units (NCMU). Zimbabwe further reported that a total of US \$9,870,000 is required in 2020, US \$9,870,000 for 2021, US \$9,970,000 for the period 2022-2023, US \$6,865,000 for 2024 and US \$2,950,000 for 2025. Zimbabwe reported that an estimated US \$16.1 million is projected for APOPO to clear Sango Border Post to Mwenezi River minefield during this time. In this regard, the Committee encourages Zimbabwe to continue to provide updates on the allocation of state resources and international support for implementation of its work plan (Action #1).

7. The Committee recalled that Zimbabwe's National Strategic plans includes actions to ensure consideration for gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in the development of its work plans as well as in ongoing work to achieve completion of its obligations under Article 5. The Committee would welcome further information from Zimbabwe on its efforts to ensure consideration for gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in the development of its work plans as well as in ongoing work to achieve completion of its obligations under Article 5 (Action #3).
8. The Committee noted that in its 2017 extension request Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to expand its NMCU to carry out humanitarian mine action activities. In this regard, the Committee welcomes updates on national strategies and work plans for completion and on specific provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas following completion (Action #26).

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

9. Zimbabwe reported that it is in the process of updating its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) in accordance with the IMAS. The Committee welcomes these developments and encourages Zimbabwe to provide further information concerning the status of its NMAS and if NMAS are up to date with IMAS to ensure the efficient and expedient implementation of its mine action programme (Action #5).
10. Zimbabwe reported on its efforts to ensure an effective information management system. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further updates from Zimbabwe on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system (Action #9). The Committee noted that Zimbabwe had reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations and welcomes further information from Zimbabwe in this regard (Action #27).

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

11. The Committee recalled that in granting Zimbabwe's 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 regarding 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; progress on Zimbabwe's commitment to relocate the ZIMAC outside of military installations, once the Ministry of Defence obtains required funds; updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land, including reporting outcomes of(?) two pilot projects concerning mechanical Assets and Mine Detection Dogs; 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.
12. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had acted on the decisions of the 16MSP by submitting an updated work plan to the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties.

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

13. Zimbabwe reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Zimbabwe reported that mine risk education (MRE) is conducted by MRE and Community liaison staff of national and international operators within their area of operations. Zimbabwe also reported that mine risk education and reduction (MRE/R) programmes are age appropriate, gender sensitive and coherent with applicable national and international standards. Zimbabwe reported that the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre and operators continuously collect and analyse sex and age disaggregated data to better understand how community members of different age, sex, and backgrounds are exposed to mine/ERW and why. Zimbabwe further reported that this information allows ZIMAC and operators to design MRE activities to reflect age and gender-specific exposure to risks, responding to distinct needs and priorities of different community members (Action #29, #30, #32).
14. In this regard, the Committee welcomes further information from Zimbabwe on its efforts to integrate MRE/R programmes into wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, and its effort to build a national capacity for their delivery (Action #28).