

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium, Norway, Sri Lanka and Zambia (Chair))

**Intersessional Meetings
22 – 24 June 2021**

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY OMAN

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

1. Oman reported that in 2020 it addressed 43 hazardous areas measuring 225,100 square metres, including 32 hazardous areas in Al Mughsayl Region, Dhofar Governorate measuring 133,500 square metres, 8 hazardous areas at a power plant in Raysut State, Dhofar Governorate measuring 39,600 square metres, and 3 areas in Aroqam measuring 52,000 square metres.
2. Oman also reported that it addressed 739,467 square metres for the period April 2017 to December 2020, including, 435,867 square meters from April 2017 to June 2018, and 170,100 square meters from January to December 2019 and 133,500 square metres for the period January to December 2020. The Committee noted a minor discrepancy between the area addressed as given in Attachment 1, page 1 and that given on page 3.
3. The Committee noted that progress reported by Oman had allowed for some comparability with that provided previously.
4. Action #8 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to provide quality information on progress and challenges in implementing the Convention, employing the guide to reporting. **The Committee observed that Oman had not reported by employing the guide to reporting** (Action #8).
5. Action #22 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance). **The Committee observed that Oman had not provided information in a manner consistent with IMAS**.
6. Action #22 of the Oslo Action plan further requests States to provide survey and clearance data that disaggregates by type of contamination. The Committee observed that Oman had not reported on the number and types of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war addressed in a disaggregated manner (Action #22).

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

7. The Committee noted that Oman reported some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States that have not yet done so will

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.

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 while Oman had reported a remaining challenge of 89 hazardous areas measuring 410,400 square metres. was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Oman on these efforts (Action #18).**

8. Action #18 of the Oslo Plan requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. **The Committee observed that Oman had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to establish Oman's baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee would welcome additional information on Oman's efforts in this regard (Action #18).**
9. Action #22 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspect hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by type of contamination. The Committee observed that Oman had not reported on its remaining challenges, reported in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination identified (Action #22).

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

- 10.The Committee noted that Oman reported a work plan in place until 2025 (Action #2, Action #19). The Committee noted that Oman provided projections on the amount of area to be addressed against annual milestones, including 52,800 square metres in 2021, 252,945 square metres in 2022, 211,200 square metres in 2023, and 52,800 square metres in 2024 (Action #20). The Committee noted a discrepancy between the number of areas and estimated area remaining to be addressed as given in Attachment 2 and the number of areas and estimated area as given in national plan for clearance and survey in Attachment 3.
11. Action #19 of the Oslo Action Plan 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 Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on having in place an evidence-based and costed work plan (Action #19).**
12. Action #20 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established. **The Committee observed that Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on how priorities have been established and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #20).**
13. Action #1 of the Oslo Action Plan 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, and by making financial and other commitments to implementation. **The Committee observed that Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national**

development plans, poverty reduction strategies and humanitarian response plans, and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #1).

14. Action #1 of the Oslo Action plan requests States to Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by making financial and other commitments to implementation. **The Committee observed that Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on annual financial commitment of State resources towards implementation and would welcome information in this regard (Action #1).**
15. Action #6 of 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 Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant, and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #6).**
16. Action #3 of 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 Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to consider 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 and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #3).**
17. Action #26 of the Oslo Action Plan 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. In addressing these areas, they will consider the commitments made at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties as contained in the paper «Proposed rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed». **The Committee observed that Oman had not provide information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to include provisions for addressing unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #26).**

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

18. Oman reported that National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) are up to date with IMAS to ensure the efficient and expedient implementation of its mine action programme (Action #5).
19. Action #9 of the Oslo Action Plan 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 Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to establish and maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #9).**

20. Action #27 of the Oslo Action Plan 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 Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #27).**

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

21. Action #32 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to Report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee observed that while Oman reported that Mine Risk Education is provided in mined areas to be addressed, including through television, radio and magazines. **The Committee observed that Oman had not reported on the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age, and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #32)"**

22. Action #28 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to Integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities to reduce the risk to the affected population and decrease their need for risk-taking. **The Committee observed that Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #28).**

23. Action #29 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States to Provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk. Ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. **The Committee observed that Oman had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on this effort and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #29).**

24. Action #30 of the Oslo Action Plan requests States 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. **The Committee observed that Oman had not provided updated information on these efforts and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #30).**

25. Action #31 of the Oslo Action Plan 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 Oman had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #31).**

Challenges in Implementation (Action #8)

26. The Committee observed that Oman did not provide information on challenges in implementing the Convention, including on cooperation and assistance (Action #8).