

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium (Chair), France, Iraq, and Sri Lanka)

Intersessional Meetings  
20 – 22 June 2022

#### PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY SUDAN

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

1. Sudan reported that in 2021 it released hazardous areas measuring 842,897 square metres, including 823,798 square metres cancelled and 19,099 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 15 anti-personnel mines, and 9,890 items of explosive ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2020 updated work plan. The Committee welcomed Sudan 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) (Action #8, Action #22).

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

3. The Committee observed that Sudan provided a high degree of clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Sudan reported a remaining challenge of 102 hazardous areas measuring 13,275,840 square metres located in 3 States, including 61 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 3,313,221 square metres and 41 suspected hazardous areas measuring 9,962,619 square metres (Action #22).
4. The Committee welcomed Sudan reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size (Action #22).
5. Action #18 of 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 Sudan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas, including survey in newly accessible areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States and would welcome updated information from Sudan on these efforts (Action #18).
6. Sudan reported on its efforts to establish its baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men (Action #18).

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

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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.

7. The Committee recalled that Sudan's updated work plan submitted in 2020 contained a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey for the period of 2020-2023 (Action #2, Action #19). Sudan further reported having a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period of 2020-2023 (Action #2).
8. Sudan reported annual updates to their national work plans based on new evidence and included adjusted milestones. Sudan reported that it would address 115 mined areas measuring 7,218,694 square metres in 2022 (3,248,412.3 square metres through non-technical survey and 3,970,281.7 square metres through technical survey / clearance) , 105 mined areas measuring 7,307,701 square metres in 2023 (3,288,465.5 square metres through non-technical survey and 4,019,235.6 square metres through technical survey / clearance), 45 mined areas measuring 7,573,173 square metres in 2024 (3,407,927.9 square metres through non-technical survey and 4,165,245.2 square metres through technical survey / clearance), 57 mined areas measuring 7,923,797 square metres in 2025 (3,565,708.7 square metres through non-technical survey and 4,358,088.4 square metres through technical survey / clearance) and 29 mined areas measuring 2,891,230 square metres in 2026 (1,301,053.5 square metres through non-technical survey and 1,590,176.5 square metres through technical survey / clearance )(Action #20).
9. Sudan reported national financial commitments towards implementation, including an annual allocation of US \$500,000 from the Government of Sudan. Sudan further reported in detail on financial contributions from its implementing partners and donors during the reporting period (Action #1).
10. Sudan reported that mine action is integrated into national development plans, poverty reduction strategy and humanitarian response plans, and that advocacy plays a vital role in humanitarian mine action in terms of ensuring consensus and encouraging cooperation among different stakeholders (Action #1).
11. Sudan reported on its efforts to strengthen and integrate responses between the mine action community and relevant communities, including annual mine action support group meeting, Sudan also reported that it continuously explores opportunities for cooperation of mutually supporting clearance commitments in border areas with Chad, South Sudan and Ethiopia (Action #6).
12. Sudan reported on its policy to deliver inclusive mine action activities so that individuals from all groups and gender that are impacted by mines and ERW can fully benefit from mine action and have their rights and needs recognized and fulfilled in order that mine action activities do not cause any forms of marginalization, vulnerability, or exclusion that may be experienced by individuals from the mine/ERW affected communities (Action #3).
13. Sudan reported that its national mine action strategy and work plan make 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)**

14. Sudan reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date with IMAS. Sudan reported that national mine action standards have been reviewed, revised, and updated based on the updated versions of IMAS, including the integration of systematic mine action prioritisation system into IMSMA (Action #5).

15. Sudan reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including reporting tools developed with IMSMA NG and standard reporting forms for non-technical, and technical survey and clearance, as well as tools on explosive ordnance disposal, explosive ordnance risk education, Victim Assistance, casualty data collection, and a post land release impact assessment. Sudan also reported that it is liaising with UNMAS-Sudan and the GICHD on the migration of data into IMSMA-NG (Action #9).

16. Sudan reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations, including through the development of an asset deployment decision making tool to guide operators on how and where to deploy what technical and clearance assets (Action #27).

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

17. In considering Sudan's 2018 extension request, the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) requested Sudan to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Sudan on;

- Progress in land release relative to the commitments made in Sudan's annual work plan, disaggregating outputs in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including consistent disaggregation between explosive hazards destroyed;
- Updates regarding mine survey assessments, related survey and deployment of clearance capacities in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, including the identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Sudan's work plan;
- Regular updates regarding changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation;
- Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts within the new Strategic plan, including resources made available by the Government of Sudan and external financing received to support implementation efforts and the effects of the funding level on the implementation of the work plan; and
- Updates regarding the structure of Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

18. The Committee would welcome updated information from Sudan on the following decisions of the 17MSP:

- Updates regarding the review of Sudan's national mine action Strategy and National technical Standard and Guidelines, including a clear timeline for the development of these processes and updates on 'data clean-up' efforts;

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

19. Sudan reported on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes, including the methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).

20. Sudan reported that MRE/R are integrated into humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, including schools, social welfare activities as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities. (Action #28).
21. Sudan reported that needs and capacities assessment for risk education is taken to identify, analyse, and prioritise local risks and to assess the capacities and vulnerabilities of the contaminated areas, and to evaluate the options for conducting risk education. Sudan further reported that needs assessments have enabled decisions making on the objectives, scope, and form of the resulting project as well as decisions on priority, best response as well as a baseline reference for future monitoring and evaluation activities, including local communities, internally displaced peoples, refugees in Dafur, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Kassala, and Gadaref States. Sudan also reported that mine risk education and risk reduction programmes are sensitive to gender, age, including the consideration of gender and diversity issues in the forming of working teams with the aim not to marginalize any group, including the following groups: Ethnic group/Tribe/Clan, Religion, Language, Disabilities, Level of education, Status in the conflict (e.g. supportive of government), social status, Wealth and economic activity, Refugees and IDPs status/legal status (Action #29).
22. Sudan 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. Sudan further reported having established a planning and prioritisation criteria that are linked with impacted communities (Action #30).
23. Sudan reported on the efforts of different partners that support MRE activities in Sudan including national organisations (Action #31).

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

24. The Committee observed that Sudan provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including; limited of fund compared to the magnitude of the problem, challenges linked to the conflict areas, uncontrolled movement of some targeted group/tribes i.e. (nomads), the roughness of some of the targeted areas and the difficulty of accessibility.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Sudan**  
**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
<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 9 August)
#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						

	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						
#26	% 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 9 August)
#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						
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						

