

**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and n Their Destruction**

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Item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the general status and
operation of the Convention**

**Clearing mined areas: Conclusions and recommendations related to the
mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ireland, Zambia)**

Addendum

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5

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Algeria

I. Progress in implementation

1. Algeria reported that, in 2015, approximately 1,543.028 hectares were returned to the community destroying a total of 58,209 anti-personnel mines in Tebesssa, Souk Ahras, Tlemcen and Nâama. In total since 2004, Algeria has released 65 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, addressing approximately 9,908.25 hectares and destroying 836,889 anti-personnel mines.

2. The Committee, while noting that Algeria had reported the release of a significant amount of area, concluded that the information provided by it on progress in implementation does not always permit comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2011 extension request. The Committee concluded in particular that progress in implementation relative to the projected milestones in its extension request would be welcome. The Committee concluded that Algeria provided a high degree of clarity on the size of the areas addressed and the quantity of anti-personnel mines destroyed since the entry into force of the Convention.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Algeria had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing the number of remaining municipalities suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. This list includes 8 municipalities on the eastern border with the length of the area in which anti-personnel mines are suspected measuring 85 kilometres: 65 kilometres in El Tarf and 20 kilometres in Guelma and 2 municipalities on the western border: 235 kilometres in Nâama.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

4. In its 2011 extension request, Algeria provided a comprehensive work plan leading towards completion by its 1 April 2017 deadline. This plan provides a list of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines broken down by region, length, estimated size, and geographic location. The Committee concluded that Algeria reported that it is nearing completion of its national mine action programme and provided updated projection of locations to be released in the remaining months leading up to its 1 April 2017 deadline in the following areas: (a) Nâama (western border): clearance is underway in 2 municipalities which were already cleared during the first phase of the demining programme; (b) El Tarf (eastern border): 7 localities still need to be addressed; (c) Guelma (eastern border): work is nearing completion in two localities.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

5. In its 2011 extension request, Algeria provided a detailed description of its land release methods, undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Algeria reported that although manual clearance is a slow process, it has been chosen over mechanical clearance because it is more reliable and because of the mountainous and rocky nature of the areas to be addressed in Algeria. The Committee concluded that, since Algeria submitted its request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on enhancements that Algeria has undertaken in this regard would be welcome.

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

6. The Committee recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) noted that the annual milestones of progress to be achieved, which Algeria included in its extension request, would greatly assist States Parties in assessing progress during the extension period and that reporting relative to these milestones would be of benefit. The Committee recalled that the 11MSP had noted that Algeria has made it clear that it faces difficulties in giving precise dates for completion of work in three specific minefields with specific characteristics, including fragmentation mines set in granite rocks and mined areas that are covered with sand.

7. Algeria reported that all mines in granite rock were identified, removed and destroyed, and the areas handed over to the relevant civil authority. Algeria further reported that the areas covered with sand are located in the commune of Ain Safra (on a line of four kilometres) and that these areas are currently being cleared. Algeria further reported that it is able to assure that the pace of efforts under Article 5 is consistent with the forecasts in the work plan for the period 2012-2017. The Committee concluded that Algeria had provided clarity on actions it had taken pursuant to the decisions taken on its extension request.

VI. Mine risk reduction

8. Algeria reported extensively on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the populations from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes for people near suspected areas and in order to promote safe behaviour amongst the population. Algeria further reported that the last victim was recorded on 28 April 2011.

Chad

I. Progress in implementation

9. Chad reported that in 2015, 39 anti-personnel mines were destroyed and demining activities were carried out in Zouar, Zouarké, Ogui (Tibesti), Sahr and Kyabé (Moyen Chari). Chad further reported that 263,003 square metres were demined and that a technical survey was conducted in Zoui, Ogui, Bardai and Aouzou. Chad also informed that demining activities carried out by the Centre National de Déminage (CND) and the Mines Advisory Group through the EU PADEMIN project led to four areas covering 317,998 square metres, being cleared and handed over to the population: axis Sahr Kiabe, Ogui, Wadi Mangnar and Zoui in the Tibesti region. The Committee concluded that Chad's 2016 report, while indicating that some demining had taken place in 2015, did not provide updated clarity on Chad's remaining challenge relative to the information contained in its plan, and in particular did not indicate precisely which areas had been cleared. The Committee, in recalling the detailed list of 113 remaining mined areas contained in Chad's May 2014 provisional plan of action 2014-2019, concluded that Chad could significantly clarify progress in implementation by reporting in a manner that permitted comparability with the information in this plan.

10. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Chad used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This would include using the terms as either "confirmed hazardous area" or "suspected hazardous area" in a manner consistent with the IMAS, disaggregating data by activity defined by the IMAS (i.e., non-

technical survey, technical survey and clearance), and reporting progress according to the result of each activity (i.e. land that is cancelled, reduced, cleared).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

11. The Committee recalled that Chad, in its provisional plan of action 2014-2019, indicated that, as of May 2014, 113 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 104,542,233 square metres remained to be addressed. Chad reported that non-technical surveys carried out in Tibesti and in southern Chad identified 14 new hazardous areas. Chad further reported that, as of the end of May 2015, 123 areas were known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

12. The Committee also recalled that Chad's provisional plan of action 2014-2019 indicated that not all of Chad's territory has been covered in the plan, with the northern part of the Tibesti region remaining to be surveyed. In this regard, Chad reported that in 2015, 14 new hazardous areas had been identified as a result of non-technical survey activities in the Tibesti and in the south of the country. The Committee concluded that the provision of a detailed list of the newly discovered areas with information on their respective geographical locations and sizes would be welcome, as well as information on further efforts by Chad to survey and identify mined areas.

13. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Chad's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

14. Further to the decisions of the 2013 Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP), in May 2014 Chad provided a provisional plan leading towards completion by its 1 January 2020 deadline, with this plan summarising which activities (i.e., non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance) would take place in each region during various periods of time leading to 1 December 2019, and at what cost. The Committee concluded that an updated work plan, including detailed geographical milestones to be achieved in the years leading to Chad's deadline in 1 January 2020, would be welcome.

15. The Committee recalled that the risk factors mentioned in Chad's provisional plan, including political stability and security, remain factors that may affect the implementation of Chad's plan for completion. The Committee further concluded that survey results will affect implementation of Chad's plan.

16. The Committee concluded that success in implementing Chad's provisional plan would require that Chad mobilises significantly more external resources than in the recent past. Chad reported that in 2015 an external contribution from the European Union was received in the context of the PADEMIN project, which includes both demining and victim assistance elements. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on Chad's efforts to mobilise other resources and the results of these efforts would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

17. In its 2013 extension request, Chad provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee concluded that since Chad submitted its request the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further

enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee concluded that Chad may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention.

18. The Committee concluded that the application of the most relevant land release standards would be particularly important in Chad given the large amount of area that remains to be addressed. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on any amendments Chad may have made to its own standards to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

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

19. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested Chad to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that, in addition to this decision, the 13MSP requested Chad to inform the States Parties, by the end of 2015, of the results of the mid-term evaluation of its strategy, including, if necessary, providing an updated strategy that takes into account new information.

20. The Committee further recalled that the 13MSP requested that Chad inform States Parties on an annual basis of issues concerning clarity on the remaining Article 5 challenge, efforts to diversify funding, efforts to address inadequacies in information management, and of weather conditions which had previously impeded the timely implementation of the Convention by Chad and which continued to affect the fulfilment of Chad's obligations. The Committee concluded that additional information on these actions and factors would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

21. In 2015, Chad reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programmes. The Committee concluded that Chad had provided information on the beneficiaries of these actions disaggregated according to gender.

22. Chad reported that in 2015, two victims had been recorded. The Committee concluded that the information on casualties provided by Chad was not gender and age disaggregated.

Mauritania

I. Progress in implementation

23. Initially, in 2001, Mauritania reported 34 areas totalling 87,725,000 square metres. On the basis of additional information obtained by Mauritania, the number of areas requiring clearance was adjusted to 56 and the amount of area adjusted to 90,017,026 square metres.

24. Mauritania reported that, in 2014, it addressed a total of 1,886,099 square metres of areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, identifying and destroying in the process 46 anti-personnel mines, 10 anti-vehicle mines and four pieces of unexploded ordnance. In total, since Mauritania submitted its request for extension in 2010, it has cleared 62,954,375 square metres of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines and otherwise

released 3,978,391 square metres of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, for a total of 66,932,766 square metres addressed. Since the entry into force of the Convention for Mauritania in 2001, it has addressed all 56 areas having cleared 67,111,766 square metres and otherwise addressed 22,905,260 square metres.

25. In 2015, Mauritania submitted a request for an extension of its Article 5 deadline until 1 January 2021, indicating that the sole circumstance which impeded its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control was that it suspected that fortifications and minefields along the border with Western Sahara may in some instances be located on Mauritanian territory.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

26. Mauritania reported that it has addressed all areas known to contain anti-personnel mines. Mauritania further reported that it suspects that mined areas, initially presumed to be within the territory of Western Sahara, may in fact be located in the territory of Mauritania. Mauritania indicated that this uncertainty stems from the fact that there are no natural borders and that border demarcation is unclear and sometimes non-existent. Mauritania further reported that the complexity of the political context in Western Sahara complicates the assessment of whether additional mined areas exist in Mauritania. The Committee concluded that additional clarity on the locations of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines would be welcome.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

27. Mauritania provided information in its 2015 extension request on activities to be undertaken during the requested five year extension to address the suspicion of additional mined areas. Mauritania indicated that, amongst other things, this would include initiating a dialogue with all stakeholders to clarify the situation at the border, and maintaining a national capacity to carry out humanitarian demining efforts. The Committee concluded that updates relative to the stakeholders dialogue intended to be initiated by Mauritania would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

28. In its 2015 extension request, Mauritania provided a detailed description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with its National Mine Action Standards, which are in conformity with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) but adapted to the context in Mauritania.

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

29. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested Mauritania to provide updates with respect to commitments made in its extension request, including information on dialogues held with relevant stakeholders and progress in the acquisition of information on the exact location of its northern border and in the development of plans to address identified areas. The Committee concluded that, in order to act upon the decisions of the 14MSP, updates relative to progress on commitments made by Mauritania would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

30. Mauritania reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. These include mine risk education programmes Mauritania provided to schools and nomad communities, and messages disseminated through media. Mauritania further reported that there were no new casualties resulting from anti-personnel mines in 2015.

Niger

I. Progress in implementation

31. Niger reported that, in 2015, 17,000 square metres of area known to contain anti-personnel mines were cleared and that 750 mines were found and destroyed.

32. In its extension request submitted in 2016, Niger indicated that fifty percent of the original 39,304 square metres of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines have been cleared and 1,075 mines have been found and destroyed. Also in its 2016 request, Niger indicated that 93,042 square metres have been cleared and also reported that that more than 39,304 square metres have been cleared. The Committee concluded that the discrepancy in the information provided by Niger could be clarified to give an accurate measure of the progress achieved by Niger.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

33. In its extension request submitted in 2016, Niger indicated that the remaining challenge amounts to two areas, one area known to contain anti-personnel mines in Madama totalling 39,304 square metres, fifty percent of which has already been cleared, and an additional confirmed hazardous area containing anti-personnel mines and anti-tank totalling approximately 196,253 square metres. The Committee concluded that Niger provided information on the location and size of the remaining mined areas. The Committee further concluded that clarity regarding Niger's remaining challenge was dependent on the clarification of the information provided by Niger on progress in implementation.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

34. Niger provided information in its 2016 extension request on activities to be undertaken during the requested four year extension to clear the remaining mined areas and reinforce the capacity of the *Commission nationale pour la collecte et le contrôle des armes illicites* (CNCCAI) to follow up and evaluate these activities. The Committee concluded that the plan presented by Niger could increase in clarity if annual milestones of areas released during the period of the extension were included.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

35. Niger reported that demining activities will be conducted in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Niger further reported that it was planning to draft national mine action standards. The Committee concluded that Niger may benefit from ensuring that, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan, the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place

and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. The Committee concluded that an update on the development of national mine action standards by Niger would be welcome.

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

36. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested Niger to provide in its 2016 extension request an updated work plan containing an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request. The 14MSP decisions also requested that Niger provide information on the location and size of the remaining areas and information on areas already released disaggregated by method of release. The Committee concluded that the plan provided by Niger in its 2016 extension request lacks annual projections of areas released during the period of the extension, and the size of areas remaining to be addressed needs to be clarified.

37. The Committee concluded that Niger had acted upon the 14MSP decisions which requested Niger to provide information on external financing received and resources made available by the Government of Niger to support implementation. In providing this information Niger reported that external resources to fund the full implementation of its plan were still being sought and that without the support of partners, Niger could not guarantee the clearance of Madama. The Committee concluded that updates relative to Niger's effort to mobilise external resources would be welcome.

VI. Mine risk reduction

38. Niger reported that the two remaining mined areas are perimeter-marked and fenced and guarded by military sentry.

Senegal

I. Progress in implementation

39. In its initial extension request submitted in 2008, Senegal indicated that its original challenge amounted to 149 suspected hazardous areas, including 85 areas totalling approximately 11,183,359 square metres, 47 areas including 73.45 linear kilometres of roads or paths and 17 areas of an unknown size. At the time, Senegal also indicated that 231 localities had not been visited, 171 of which were inaccessible and 60 localities had been abandoned.

40. In its extension request submitted in 2015, Senegal reported that since its initial extension request, of the 149 suspected hazardous areas, 131 areas were released, including 88 areas released by non-technical survey, 17 areas released by technical survey and 26 areas released by clearance. In addition, of the 171 inaccessible localities, 60 could be visited and 54 of these localities were cancelled by non-technical survey. Of the 60 abandoned localities, 33 localities were cancelled either by survey or clearance. In addition, Senegal reported that further non-technical surveys were conducted in 298 localities resulting in 288 localities being cancelled.

41. Senegal reported that, in 2015, it cleared 2 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 29,156 square metres and that no mines were found. Senegal further

reported that non-technical surveys were conducted in 72 localities which resulted in the cancellation of 67 localities and 5 localities were classified as confirmed hazardous areas.

42. The Committee concluded that, while the information provided by Senegal in its extension request on progress in implementation contained details on each area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines that had been released with the data being disaggregated by activity (non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance), information provided in 2016 did not permit comparability with information provided previously, particularly in its 2008 extension request. The Committee further concluded that greater comparability with annual milestones of progress provided in extension requests would also be welcomed.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

43. Senegal reported that a total of 83 areas, 56 confirmed hazardous areas totalling 465,127 square metres and 27 suspected hazardous areas of an unknown size remain to be addressed. In addition, Senegal reported that 144 localities of the Bignona (127), Oussouye (4) and Ziguinchor (13) regions still need to be visited.

44. The Committee concluded that with further survey activities planned during the period of the extension request and a number of localities remaining inaccessible at present, Senegal's remaining challenge will need to be further clarified when additional information becomes available.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

45. In its extension request submitted in 2015, Senegal reported that in 2016, non-technical surveys are planned to be conducted in 137 localities and that technical survey and clearance are planned in 47 areas totalling 374,508.195 square metres, in 2017 non-technical surveys are planned in 79 localities and technical survey and clearance are planned in 7 areas totalling 303,820 square metres, in 2018, technical survey and clearance are planned in 2 areas totalling 310,000 square metres, in 2019, technical survey and clearance are planned in 2 areas totalling 310,000 square metres and in 2020, technical survey and clearance are planned in 1 area totalling 300,020 square metres.

46. The Committee concluded that Senegal's plan may be affected by the security situation and accessibility of areas which are due to be surveyed and that these factors may influence the implementation of the plan. The Committee further concluded that information acquired by additional surveys will affect the implementation of the plan. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updated information on the security situation as well as on the results of any surveys.

47. The Committee concluded that Senegal presented a plan which relies in part on the mobilisation of external financial contributions and that information on efforts by Senegal to mobilise these resources and outcomes of these efforts would be welcome. Senegal reported that since 2014, Senegal only receives external support from the USA and that Senegal's own annual contribution amounts to 500,000,000 FCFA.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

48. In its 2015 extension request, Senegal indicated that it developed National Mine Action Standards based on the United Nations' International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). These provide information on its land release methods and specify criteria used to cancel land through

non-technical and technical survey. Senegal reported that it updated its National Mine Action Standards in 2013 with the support of experts.

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

49. The Committee recalled that the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) had requested that Senegal provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee recalled that the 14MSP had requested that annual updates be provided by Senegal on a variety of commitments made in its extension request.

50. The Committee concluded that Senegal submitted information on outcomes of survey efforts. The Committee further concluded that updated information on how results of recent surveys affected Senegal's understanding of the remaining implementation challenge would be welcomed.

51. The Committee concluded that updated information concerning the commitment of Senegal related to resource mobilization efforts and external financing received would be welcomed.

52. The Committee concluded that updates on the developments of the peace process dialogue which may lead to new are becoming accessible for survey and clearance activities and changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation would be welcomed.

VI. Mine risk reduction

53. In 2015, Senegal reported on the actions it took in 2014 to effectively exclude the populations from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through marking and mine education programmes. The Committee underlined the importance of Senegal continuing to provide updated information on actions taken to exclude populations from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. In addition, Senegal reported that in 2015, there was 1 new casualty - 1 man - resulting from anti-personnel mines.
