

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

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Sixteenth Meeting

Vienna, 18-21 December 2017

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

**Conclusions Committee on Article 5
implementation (Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland
and Zambia)**

Addendum

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5

Mauritania

I. Progress in implementation

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. 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.

In 2015, Mauritania submitted an extension request 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. At the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017, Mauritania carried out surveys of the suspected areas and Mauritania reported that it can now confirm that the areas are located within Mauritanian territory.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

Mauritania reported that further to administrative checks and the conduct of technical surveys, the area of Sebkhath Fogra in the Ain Bintilli district was identified to contain anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The area in question is 1,000,000 square metres. The Committee concluded that Mauritania had provided a high degree of clarity on the location of SHAs.



III. National plans for clearance and survey

Mauritania has estimated that the area could be released in 2017 provided funding is available. Mauritania reported that the Mauritanian government has committed 385,000 US dollars for 2016-2017 to cover the cost of the National Mine Action Authority. The Committee concluded that updates on efforts by Mauritania to raise the necessary funds to complete the implementation of Article 5 would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

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 IMAS but adapted to the context in Mauritania.

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

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 Mauritania had acted in accordance with the 14MSP decisions.

VI. Mine risk reduction

Mauritania reported that the area where the presence of anti-personnel is known has been marked and there are warnings displayed in Arabic and French. Mauritania reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs. These include MRE programmes provided to schools and community liaison teams, including women and men, local NGOs regularly visiting towns and villages to provide MRE.
