

**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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Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5**

**Analysis of the request submitted by Zimbabwe  
for an extension of the deadline for completing the  
destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance  
with Article 5 of the Convention**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation  
(Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland and Zambia)**

1. Zimbabwe ratified the Convention on 18 June 1998. The Convention entered into force for Zimbabwe on 1 March 1999. In its initial transparency report submitted on 11 January 2000, Zimbabwe reported areas under its jurisdiction or control containing, or suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines. Zimbabwe was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 March 2009. Since this time, Zimbabwe submitted requests for extension to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties in 2009, the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2010, the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties in 2012 and the Third Review Conference in 2014. On each occasion, the Meetings of the States Parties agreed unanimously to grant Zimbabwe its request for extension. The request for extension granted to Zimbabwe by the Third Review Conference was for 36 months, until 1 January 2018.

2. On 3 April 2017, Zimbabwe submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (the Committee) a request for extension of its 1 January 2018 deadline. On 30 June 2017, the Committee wrote to Zimbabwe to request additional information. On 9 August 2017, Zimbabwe submitted to the Committee a revised request for extension incorporating additional information provided in response to the Committee's questions. Zimbabwe's request is for 8 years, until 31 December, 2025.<sup>1</sup>

3. The request indicates that, in line with the commitments made by Zimbabwe in previous requests, Zimbabwe has completed re-survey of all mined areas to determine with clarity the remaining challenge. The request indicates that the remaining challenge at the beginning of the fourth extension request in 2014 totalled 208,993,370 square metres. The request indicates that during the extension period a total of 156 997 972 square metres<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The executive summary of Zimbabwe's revised extension request indicates that the request is for eight years until December 2025. In response to an invitation by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to comment on a draft analysis, Zimbabwe indicated that the extension request being sought is until 31 December 2025.

<sup>2</sup> The extension request indicates that during the last extension period Zimbabwe addressed 142,763,067 square metres. In response to an invitation by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to comment on a draft analysis, Zimbabwe indicated that, "the extension request



have been addressed representing 68% of all mined areas in the country, with 93% of land being cancelled using non-technical survey. The request indicated that in 2015 and 2016 a total of 134,099,472 square metres being addressed by non-technical survey, 6,206,281 square metres by technical survey and 2,307,438 square metres through clearance resulting in the clearance of 37,913 anti-personnel mines. The request further indicates that items of unexploded ordnance have been routinely recovered from battle areas in the country side by military EOD teams stationed at Provincial Centres.

4. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Zimbabwe is employing the full range of methods to permit the safe return of land to the population and encouraged Zimbabwe to continue seeking improved land release techniques which could lead to Zimbabwe fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. In this regard, the Committee noted the importance of Zimbabwe continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey. The Committee, however, noted a small discrepancy in the request concerning the data on the amount of areas addressed.

5. The request indicates that the formulation of the Zimbabwe National Mine Action Strategic Plan commenced in December 2016 with the assistance of the GICHD and mine action stakeholders. The request indicates that the eight-year plan will be finalised in 2017 and submitted to relevant ministries for approval. The request also indicates that the National Strategic Plan will highlight mine action aims, goals and objectives from 2018 to 2025. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Zimbabwe is complying with its commitment to develop and implement a National Mine Action Strategic Plan. The Committee further noted that Zimbabwe was doing so with the involvement and support of its partners.

6. The request indicates that during the fourth extension request period Zimbabwe revised its National Mine Action Standards (ZNMAS), including, national standards on land release which are binding for all operators in Zimbabwe. The Committee noted the importance of these efforts and in doing so Zimbabwe fulfilled its commitment as highlighted in previous requests for extension.

7. The request indicates efforts made to strengthen the national and international mine action capacities in Zimbabwe including the increase of the National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) by an additional 30 deminers bringing the capacity to 150 deminers, with equipment for the additional deminers provided by the ICRC, increase of the demining capacity of the HALO Trust to 240 deminers and increase of the demining capacity of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to 70 deminers. The request further indicates that Zimbabwe has engaged two more demining organisations, APOPO and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) which are currently set to carry out operations in Zimbabwe. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Zimbabwe has made efforts to build its capacity and improve its efficiency by engaging the support of international organisations and developing survey and clearance plans for the remaining areas.

8. The request indicates that during the fourth extension request Zimbabwe, together with demining stakeholders HALO Trust and NPA, introduced two pilot projects comprising the deployment of Mechanical Assets, (HALO) and Mine Detection Dogs (NPA), respectfully. The Committee wrote to Zimbabwe to request addition information from Zimbabwe on the status of these efforts, the development of relevant standards as well as any additional information on where these assets would be deployed and their effect on efficiency. Zimbabwe responded by indicating in its revised request that the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre will review the outcome of the pilot projects before considering broadening the operational scope of these assets anywhere around the country where it will be felt they are the best tool. The Committee noted with satisfaction the efforts of Zimbabwe to take steps to explore new methodologies to increase its capacity. The

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contained an error of the area addressed, which is given as 142,763,067 square metres instead of 156,997, 972 square metres. This is because the figure was erroneously calculated from 31 December 2014 yet the extension period ran from 1 January 2014”.

Committee further noted that in implementing such efforts, Zimbabwe may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested.

9. The request indicates the following as impeding circumstances to achieving further completion progress within the previous extension request period: (a) high level of metal contamination; (b) Inadequate funding for demining from the government; (c) Insufficient demining equipment.

10. The request indicates that as of December 2016, Zimbabwe's remaining totalled 66,230,103 square metres in six mined areas throughout the country, (with the Musengezi to Rwenya minefield, divided by river Mazowe to give Musengezi to Mazowe, currently being addressed by the HALO Trust and Mazowe to Rwenya minefields, being addressed by MAG. Additional organisations have been allocated areas of operation as follows:

**Zimbabwe's remaining challenge as of December 2016**

<i>Mined Area</i>	<i>Remaining area to be addressed (square meters)</i>	<i>Organisations</i>
1 Musengezi to Mazowe River	14'523'000	HALO Trust
2 Mazowe River to Rwenya River	11'277'700	MAG
3 Sango Border Post to Mwenezi River <sup>3</sup>	17'292'098	NMCU
4 Sango Border Post to Mwenezi River	7'181'638	APOPO
5 Rusitu to Muzite Mission	8'702'023	NPA
6 Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill	7'281'913	NPA
7 Lusulu	56'000	NMCU
<b>Total</b>	<b>66'230'103</b>	

11. The Committee noted a discrepancy in the total amount of areas in the table provided in the request.

12. The request indicates that the remaining mined areas have both an economic and social impact on local communities denying freedom of movement to local communities to carry out their daily activities and preventing land from being used for productive use. The request indicates that the mined areas have had the most severe effect on the rural population living close to the minefields, as humans and livestock have been and continue to be killed by mines with subsistent farmers being forced through economic necessity to take risks to farm the land. The request also indicates, for example, that mined areas prevent access to approximately 5,000,000 square metres of commercial farm land for tea estates and timber plantations. In some cases, the request indicates that there is timber that is now well past its maturity and has lost commercial value. The request further indicates that mined areas also impact Zimbabwe's capacity to tourism development in the Great Limpopo Trans frontier Park (GLTP), a tripartite tourism project by Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique where the Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner minefield is located and where contaminated areas remains un-cleared. The Committee noted that completion of Article 5 implementation during the requested extension period had the potential of making a significant contribution to improving human safety and socio-economic conditions in Zimbabwe.

13. As noted, Zimbabwe's requested extension is for eight years, January 2018 to December 2025. The request indicates that the amount of time is based on the extent of the

<sup>3</sup> The mined area of Sango Border Post to Mwenezi River has been divided into two separate sectors.

remaining contamination, current operational capacities of various demining stakeholders and retaining current funding levels.

14. The request contains a detailed work plan and budget for the period 2017-2018. The request indicates that during the extension period, ZIMAC will revise the work plans yearly so that it remains relevant and more accurately direct operations. The request also includes tables indicating how much area in which locations will be addressed in each year of the extension period, by which organization. The request indicates that Zimbabwe intends to address including 6,349,404 in 2017; 8,001,700 square metres in 2018; 8'500'098 square metres in 2019; 9'106'912 in 2020; 7'720'000 square metres in 2021; 7'766'000 square metres in 2022; 7'890'000 square metres in 2023, and; 6'743'969 in 2025.

15. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe and the States Parties as a whole would benefit from Zimbabwe's commitment to keep the States Parties informed of changes to the work plan. The Committee further noted both the inclusive approach taken by Zimbabwe in the preparation of its request and the commitment by Zimbabwe to continue this inclusive approach in implementing and revising, as necessary, the plan contained in the extension request.

16. The request indicates several factors that could positively or negatively impact on the request timeframe, including: seasonal rains, difficult terrain, presence of a high level of fragmentation in minefields resulting in a slower the pace of demining, and financing. The request further indicates that the overall economic climate within Zimbabwe may affect operations and that the plan assumes that the economic climate remains conducive to demining operations. Zimbabwe further noted within the request that newer demining organisations have not worked in Zimbabwe in the past and that clearance rates for these organisations are estimations only as a season's clearance rate is required before accurate figures can be produced. The Committee noted that with the many factors that may positively or negatively affect the implementation of the plan, it is important for Zimbabwe to keep the States Parties informed of the changing circumstances.

17. The request indicates that Zimbabwe projects that US\$ 129.74 million will be required for activities related to the implementation of Article 5 during the eight year extension period with US\$ 12.7 million expected from the Government of Zimbabwe and US\$ 117.04 million expected from support to its partners through international funding sources. The request indicates that Zimbabwe has acted upon its commitment to obtain resources relative to needs expressed in the previous request, including resources provided by the Government of Zimbabwe. The Committee noted that the Government of Zimbabwe has provided over USD\$ 1.5 million to ZIMAC and NMCU during the extension period, and will continue to provide such funding towards completion, with the anticipation of increased funding based on improvements in the country's economic situation. The Committee noted that annual requirements for external funding were significantly greater than Zimbabwe's experience to date.

18. The Committee wrote to Zimbabwe to request additional details concerning Zimbabwe's resource mobilisation efforts and plans in the near term as well as in the long term to ensure sustainable resource flow to the programme. Zimbabwe responded by indicating in its revised request that resource mobilization will be an ongoing effort in Zimbabwe with these efforts currently beginning to bear fruit with funding support from the international community expected to increase directed to international partners. Zimbabwe also indicated that it will continue internationalising the problem by attending and presenting on international platforms thereby soliciting support from the international community. Zimbabwe further indicated that ZIMAC will soon be hosting a website which will provide information on the programme. The Committee also wrote to Zimbabwe to request information on efforts to ensure that mine action is considered within national development plans and other relevant national plans which may benefit Zimbabwe's resource mobilization efforts. Zimbabwe did not address this matter in its response.

19. Given that the budget includes funding for NPA until 2025 and noting that activities by NPA in Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill and Rusitu to Muzite are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020 and 2024, respectively, the Committee wrote to Zimbabwe to request additional information concerning the plan for NPA's capacity following these activities.

Zimbabwe responded by indicating that once NPA has completed its activities in these areas their capacity will contribute to addressing other mined areas.

20. The request includes other relevant information that may be of use to the States Parties in assessing and considering the request, including a detailed assessment of the remaining mined locations, their characteristics, terrain, and impacts, together with maps and photographs that provide greater clarity on the nature and extent of contamination within Zimbabwe. The Committee also noted that Zimbabwe provided an outline of institutional structures, operational responsibilities together with capacity building actions, including its efforts to take into consideration sex and age disaggregated data on mine victims in areas under Zimbabwe's jurisdiction.

21. In recalling that the implementation of Zimbabwe's national demining plan will be affected by new information, the level of resources obtained, a better understanding of the clearance capacity of new operators as well as new methodologies being implemented and assessed, and the amount of external or internal capacity involved in survey and clearance, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Zimbabwe submitting to the Committee by 30 April 2019, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee noted that this work plan should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, and a revised detailed budget.

22. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request and subsequently in response to the Committee's questions is comprehensive, complete and clear. The Committee further noted that the plan presented by Zimbabwe is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation. The Committee also noted that the plan is ambitious and that its success is contingent upon the stable funding is contingent upon stable funding, retaining strong partnerships with international stakeholders and other matters creating an environment conducive to increasing the capacity of organizations involved in clearance activities. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Zimbabwe reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- (a) Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Zimbabwe's annual clearance plan during the extension period;
- (b) Updated information on remaining contamination disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards, including land release standards;
- (c) Updated detailed annual plans for the implementation of its extension request based on new information gathered from progress in implementation;
- (d) Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land, including reporting outcomes concerning two pilot projects concerning mechanical Assets and Mine Detection Dogs;
- (e) Progress on Zimbabwe's commitment to relocate the ZIMAC outside of military installations, once the Ministry of Defence obtains required funds;
- (f) Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Zimbabwe to support implementation efforts;
- (g) 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.

23. The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Zimbabwe reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.