Thirteenth Meeting
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Item 11 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

Achieving the aims of the Cartagena Action Plan:
The Geneva Progress Report 2012-2013

Submitted by the President-Designate of the Thirteenth Meeting
of the States Parties

Section #2
Mine clearance

III. Mine clearance

1. The Twelveth Meeting of the States Parties’s Geneva Progress Report recorded that as of 3 December 2012, there were 36 States Parties that had formally indicated they had to fulfil the obligation contained in Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention. Since the Twelveth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP), two States Parties – Bhutan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – reported that they have completed implementation of Article 5. Bhutan’s efforts to comply with Article 5 involved clearing 1,360 square metres of mined area in Nganglam in 2010 and three locations in Gobarkunda totalling 4,030 square metres in 2013, in addition to 30,000 square metres of mined areas in Manas prior to entry into force of the Convention for Bhutan. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela’s efforts to comply with Article 5 involved destroying 1,073 anti-personnel mines emplaced in 13 mined areas around six naval posts. Both Bhutan and Venezuela used their own resources to carry out their mine clearance operations.

2. There are now 34 States Parties that have formally indicated that they must still fulfil the obligation contained in Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

* Document submitted after the established deadline to allow the States parties to provide comprehensive information on their activities.
3. In the Cartagena Action Plan, it was agreed that States Parties that have been granted an extension to their initial Article 5 deadline will complete implementation of Article 5 as soon as possible but not later than their extended deadlines, ensure progress toward completion proceeds in accordance with the commitments made in their extension requests and the decisions taken on their requests, and report regularly on such progress to the meetings of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences. To facilitate action with respect to this commitment, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies invited each State Party that has been granted an extended deadline to provide updates to the States Parties with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in their extension requests.

4. The Co-Chairs invited Afghanistan to update the Standing Committee on the commitment made by Afghanistan to carry out, in 2013, non-technical survey of 863 impacted communities and 15,361 non-impacted communities, and “village by village search” in 863 impacted communities and 2,295 non-impacted communities. The Co-Chairs further invited Afghanistan to report on any revisions to its work plan, and the reasons for these revisions, as well as its commitment to review its work plan on a continuous basis using an inclusive approach that was so important in the preparation of the extension request. In addition, the Co-Chairs invited Afghanistan to report information relative to the annual milestones for progress as contained in section 17.7 of Afghanistan’s extension request.

5. Afghanistan reported that during the first month of the extension request (April 2013) a total of 176 hazards covering 6.9 square kilometres had been cleared and four hazards covering 0.2 square kilometres have been cancelled. Afghanistan reported that its community survey is behind targets due to the fact that only 33 teams out of the 58 required have been funded and due to an unexpended increase in the number of communities not registered in the gazetteer.

6. It was recalled that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) noted that Algeria may benefit from discussion of its situation with other States Parties that have experience in clearing similar terrain and which face similar challenges and that such mutual cooperation could be mutually beneficial and could lead to improved clearance rates, and the value of Algeria ensuring the use of the full range of technical and non-technical means to release suspected hazardous areas. The Co-Chairs invited Algeria to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Algeria’s extension request, including its commitments to: conclude operations in a 4.5 hectare mined area in the Wilaya de Tlemcen commune of Marset Ben M’hidi; begin and conclude operations in a 2.4 hectare mined area in the Wilaya de Tlemcen commune of Bab-El-Aesa; begin and conclude operations in two mined areas totalling 4.65 hectares in the Wilaya de Tlemcen commune of Maghnia; begin operations in a 64.5 hectare mined area in the Wilaya de Tlemcen commune of El Bouihi; continue operations in 72 hectares of mined areas in the Wilaya de El’Taref commune of Ain-El Karma; and, conclude operations in a 66 hectares mined area in the Wilaya de Souk-Ahras commune of Taoura.

7. Algeria reported that, to date, a total of 856,670 mines of various origins have been neutralized: 680,283 mines have been cleared during mine clearance work, 159,110 stockpiled mines have been destroyed, 991 isolated mines have been located and destroyed, 379 isolated mines have been located and destroyed around known or suspected areas, and an additional 15,907 mines emplaced by the Algerian army in 1994-1995 have been located.
and destroyed. In total, 6,577,232 hectares of terrain have been addressed. Cleared areas of the municipality of El Meridj in the Wilaya of Tebessa and Bab El-Assa in the Wilaya of Tlemcen are pending turnover to the local authorities. The clearance of mined areas continues in accordance with the work plan within Algeria’s request for extension.

8. It was recalled that the 12MSP requested that Angola provide additional information or clarity to the 13MSP on the following: estimated costs for implementation, including by clarifying the costs that Angola’s State budget would cover as part of the overall cost of implementation; the actual size and location of the areas to be addressed by public entities, annual and geographically-specific milestones of expected progress, and a specification of how the areas to be addressed by public entities relate to the 2,116 remaining suspected hazardous areas reported in the request; how this amount of area relates to the number of remaining suspected hazardous areas reported in the extension request, how the areas which will be cleared by operators over the course of 2013-2017 have been prioritized, and how this activity relates, if at all, to Angola’s non-technical survey project; the outcomes of Angola’s non-technical research project which aims to update the data of suspected areas in the country; the assessment of survey information it is carrying out in partnership with the HALO Trust and Norwegian People’s Aid; and, the outcomes of efforts to ensure the integrity of a national mine action information system, including efforts to obtain, enter and manage information provided by all actors carrying out survey and/or demining activities in Angola. The Co-Chairs invited Angola to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Angola’s extension request.

9. Angola reported that in the first quarter of 2013 a total of 8,373,650 square metres have been addressed resulting in the destruction of 328 anti-personnel mines, 26 anti-tank mines, 26,356 pieces of unexploded ordnance and 218,974 kilograms of different materials. In the process, a total of 228 kilometres of road and 13 kilometres of power lines have been cleared. Concerning the national database, joint efforts to update the data have been carried out which has enabled Angola’s national demining authority to set a more balanced baseline which more accurately reflects actual contamination levels. These actions have included visits to two provinces for data consolidation as well as a round table attended by six operators to analyse data discrepancies. Angola reported that the current baseline includes 1,425 areas with a total size of 1,560 square kilometres. Concerning non-technical survey, a total of 3,625 areas were covered throughout 18 provinces resulting in 1,121 active areas, 2,355 expired (cleared or discredited) areas and 149 areas in progress. Concerning the mapping project, the following tasks have taken place: procurement and purchasing of the necessary technical resources to implement the project; training of 35 technicians on handling their technical equipment; drafting of technical dictionary for data management; appointment of field teams, and; preparation of the provincial “folders” with mine action background information.

10. It was recalled that, with respect to Argentina, the Second Review Conference noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of article 5 during extension periods. Argentina reported no changes.

11. It was recalled the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties (9MSP) noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina providing clarity regarding which areas of what size and at what locations remain to be addressed in each administrative area. The Co-Chairs invited Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Bosnia and Herzegovina’s extension request, including its commitment to address a total 179.4 square kilometers (32.75 square kilometers by survey of “III priority category” areas, 9.27 square kilometers by clearance, 21.63 square kilometers by technical survey, 115.75 square kilometers by general survey).
12. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that since December 2012 not much has happened in the area of clearance of marked minefields and that Bosnia and Herzegovina has continued with planned activities, as set out in the General Strategy of Demining Activities, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period of 2009 – 2019. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the appointment of two new members of the Commission for Demining, which was holding back the activities of the Commission, has been completed. Due to funding shortfalls and extreme weather in the winter and early spring, planned activities have continued at a slower pace but Bosnia and Herzegovina still hopes to meet its goals by the end of this year. Bosnia and Herzegovina estimates that the suspected mine contaminated area totals 1,250 square kilometres. Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to reduce “III priority category” areas using a new methodology, with this effort to be completed by the end of this year. This should reduce suspected hazardous areas by at least 70 square kilometres as well as prepare 30 square kilometres of area for demining operations. Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed its commitment to complete demining activities as set out in its national strategy by 2019, noting that this is largely dependent on the availability of donor funds, which are scarce, and continue to fade away.

13. It was recalled that Cambodia would carry out a “Baseline Survey” of all affected districts by the end of 2012 to produce greater clarity on the remaining implementation challenge, to regularly report on progress in carrying out the Baseline Survey, to report to the States Parties on the outcomes of the Baseline Survey, and to provide to the States Parties a revised work plan, schedule and budget. The Co-Chairs invited Cambodia to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Cambodia’s extension request, including the commitments made by Cambodia to, by the end of 2012, finalize its Baseline Survey and to revise the work plan presented in its request and to clear a total of 41,811,778 square meters.

14. Cambodia reported that that latest Baseline Survey results indicate 15,578 suspected hazardous areas measuring a total of 1,914.8 square kilometres. In its third year of implementation of its National Mine Action Strategy all agencies are mostly on track. The National Mine Action Strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation framework has been developed and the National Mine Action Strategy has been evaluated in 2013 with the results soon to be available. From 2010 to August 2013, a total of 281,960,000 square metres have been addressed resulting in the destruction of 65,136 anti-personnel mines, 1,744 anti-tank mines and 117,109 unexploded ordnance.

15. The Co-Chairs invited Chile to provide updates on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Chile’s extension request, including Chile’s commitment to clear a total of 26 areas in the provinces of Arica and Parinacota (14), Antofagasta (ten) and Magallanes and AntarticaChilena (two) measuring a total of 4,221,145 square metres destroying in the process a total of 15,049 anti-personnel mines and 8,380 anti-tank mines, and its commitment to certify a total of 26 mined areas in the provinces of Arica and Parinacota (14), Antofagasta (ten) and Magallanes and AntarticaChilena (two).

16. Chile reported that it has, to date, destroyed 38 per cent of its mines corresponding to the destruction of 69,460 of 181,814 emplaced mines. Chile has also addressed 34.32 per cent of the areas to be addressed corresponding to 7,965,825 square metres of a total of 23,207,281 square metres.

17. It was recalled that in its request Colombia has provided a clearance plan only for the period 2011 to 2013 and that Colombia had been requested to present to the 13MSP a revised implementation plan that contains and takes into account a clearer and more substantiated understanding of the location and nature of contamination and that includes revised annual projections of which areas would be addressed when and how. The Co-Chairs invited Colombia to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Colombia’s extension request, including that the following would
be completed in 2013: a total of 2,575,932 square metres would be addressed through non-technical survey; a total of 1,717,288 square metres would be addressed through clearance; capacity would be increased to 14 national demining squads, 17 civilian demining squads and 15 non-technical survey teams; and, the 2011-2013 plan would be fully implemented to address contamination in 14 municipalities addressing a total of 11,378,482 square metres of dangerous area and 4,551,393 square metres of mined area.

18. Colombia reported that, to date, four civilian organisations have requested accreditation with one organization, the HALO Trust, having been accredited and currently ready to initiate demining activities. Also, the National Navy has offered to create a new platoon in 2013 and the National Army has proposed the creation of a new platoon per year in 2013 and 2014 with 12 platoons expected by 2014. Colombia has identified 100 municipalities affected by anti-personnel mines with 20 of these having been identified as safe for demining activities. Of these 20, 8 have been subjected to interventions by the demining battalions and an additional two having been requested by the HALO Trust for intervention. Colombia reported that it continues to implement the Humanitarian Demining Action Plan with the Humanitarian Demining Battalion carrying out activities in seven municipalities in 2012 and with two municipalities, San Carlos and El Dorado, having been declared “free of suspicion of anti-personnel mines”. In 2013 Colombia will develop a Humanitarian Demining Action Plan for the period of 2014-2016 which will be presented at the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

19. The Co-Chairs invited Croatia to provide updates on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Croatia’s extension request, including Croatia’s commitment to address 125 square kilometers (25 square kilometers reduced through general survey, 50 square kilometers to be reduced by technical survey and 50 square kilometers reduced through clearance) which would remove the threat from agricultural lands. Croatia reported that the current mine suspected area totals 669 square kilometres. Since January 2013, mine clearance activities have reduced suspected hazardous areas by 9.2 square kilometres, with non-technical survey further reducing an additional 10.2 square kilometres and that the beginning of the year 292 anti-personnel mines, 299 anti-tank mines and 11,213 pieces of unexploded ordnance were located and destroyed.

20. Croatia further reported that by the end of August of this year, the entire border between Hungary and Croatia will be cleared of mines. In addition, efforts are underway on a new Law on Mine Action that will be more in tune with the provisions of the Convention and will enable more efficient and more responsible use of national resources by redefining Croatia’s land release methodology and consolidating small dispersed projects into large ones, thus increasing both cost effectiveness and safety for deminers.

21. It was recalled that, with respect to Cyprus, the 12MSP noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of article 5 during extension periods. Cyprus reported no changes.

22. It was recalled that, for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a general mine action assessment (GMAA) and a general Mime action survey (GMAS) were important to obtaining clarity and producing a detailed plan, and that the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) had noted the importance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo keeping the States Parties apprised of efforts to implement the GMAA and GMAS and the outcomes of these efforts. The Co-Chairs invited the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s extension request, including its commitments to carry out non-technical survey between January 2013 to November 2014 with the aim of releasing the 70 suspected mined areas and to carry out technical survey to determine the
precise location and dimensions, as well as other characteristics, of the 12 confirmed areas prior to clearance activities.

23. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that it still has insufficient information to meet the requirements of Article 5 and that only 30 per cent of the area to be surveyed has been surveyed. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that a national survey, which will take place in 5 phases, will last nine months from 1 May 2013 and was initiated on 25 March 2013. However, the Democratic Republic of the Congo will not be able to submit a request for extension before January 2014 given that the survey will be completed only by January 2014.

24. The Co-Chairs invited Ecuador to provide updates on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Ecuador’s extension request, including Ecuador’s commitment to carry out technical survey, clearance and quality assurance in 11 areas in the Province of Morona Santiago sector of SoldadoMonges and Remolinos. Ecuador reported that over the course of 2012 a total of 16 mined areas have been addressed and 8 areas have been subject to verification during demarcation activities with 21,910 square metres cleared and 47,106 square metres cancelled culminating in the destruction of 813 anti-personnel mines and five pieces of unexploded ordnance. As of 31 December 2012 the remaining challenge included a total of 466,872.50 square meters containing a total of 15,595 mined: ten areas in the province of Morona Santiago measuring 287,097.50 square meters and containing 10,560 mines; ten areas in the Province of Pastaza measuring 10,000 square meters and containing 29 mines; six areas in the Province of Zamora Chinchipe measuring 169,775 square meters and containing 5,006 mines.

25. It was recalled that the 11MSP had noted the importance of Eritrea developing as soon as possible resource mobilisation strategies that take into account the need to reach out to a wide range of national and international funding sources and that Eritrea might benefit from outreach to international mine action operators or advisors in order to take advantage of the latest survey methods, equipment and lessons learned on land release as well as to access additional sources of international funding. The Co-Chairs invited Eritrea to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Eritrea’s extension request, including its commitments to carry out non-technical survey and technical survey of the remaining areas to cancel areas or confirm mined areas while simultaneously continuing demining operations.

26. Eritrea reported that since December 2012 a total of six areas in Gash Barka measuring 1,705,462 square metres and a total of 12 areas in Debub measuring 4,413,406 square metres have been cancelled through non-technical survey. In total 112 areas have been verified as mine free measuring 38,489,385 square kilometres and a total of 35 areas measuring 4,438,318.45 square meters have been cleared. Eritrea is well aware that there remains extensive tasks that need to be carried out in the second half of this year, mainly in resurveying and is looking forward to increased operational progress to achieve the planned objectives before submitting a second extension request.

27. It was recalled that the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) had noted that Mauritania’s resource mobilization efforts could benefit from communicating in more detail its cost projections for acquisition of transport and mine clearance equipment and for land release and that the 10MSP had requested that Mauritania continue to report on its progress by providing information disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey. The Co-Chairs invited Mauritania to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Mauritania’s extension request, including its commitments to address four mined areas in 2013 totalling 13,808,740 square metres.
28. Mauritania reported that during the first trimester of 2013 a total of six areas have been addressed measuring 22,893,745 square metres with 19,525,600 square metres having been addressed through non-technical survey, 2,272,042 square metres having been addressed through technical survey and 1,096,103 square metres having been addressed through clearance.

29. Mozambique reported that, while its extension request submitted in 2008 estimated that approximately 12.2 million square metres remained to be addressed prior to Mozambique’s 1 March 2014 extended deadline, an additional 22.2 million square metres of mined area had since been discovered. Mozambique further reported that while this significantly added to its implementation challenge, its results in addressing mined areas greatly exceeded projections contained in its 2008 extension request, with over 28.7 million square metres addressed between 2008 and 2012 and with 20,479 anti-personnel mines destroyed during this period. Mozambique indicated that, as of January 2013, 249 suspected hazardous areas totalling 10.8 million square metres remained to be addressed with it expected that all but 2.9 million square metres of this located along Mozambique’s border with Zimbabwe would be addressed by Mozambique’s extended deadline. On 24 May 2013, Mozambique submitted a request for an extension until 1 January 2015 to deal with this remaining challenge.

30. The Co-Chairs invited Peru to provide updates on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Peru’s extension request, including Peru’s commitment to clear four objectives measuring 37,400 square meters on its border with Ecuador. Peru reported that over the period of April 2012 to March 2013 a total of 4,021 anti-personnel mines had been destroyed in 8 objectives (PACHA 2, CG-91, CG-92, CENEPA 1, CENEPA 2, CENEPA 3, PV2-01 and PV2-02) on its border with Ecuador. Peru further reported that a total of 64 areas containing a total of 13,325 mines remain to be addressed on its border with Ecuador.

31. It was recalled that Senegal had committed to undertake technical survey activities and to develop a cancellation procedure which could result in implementation that proceeds much faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested by Senegal and in a more cost-effective manner. The Co-Chairs invited Senegal to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Senegal’s extension request, including its commitments to develop a land release method, to revise its national strategy and demining plan if necessary, and to carry out additional investigations in the areas that were inaccessible when Senegal submitted its request.

32. Senegal reported that since December 2012, it carried out technical survey in 27 localities with 19 areas confirmed as dangerous. The total number of localities containing confirmed hazardous areas is 46. A total of 66 localities have been released since 2012: 14 through demining and 52 through non-technical surveys. A total of 296 localities remain to be surveyed and an estimated 333,415 square metres to be addressed.

33. It was recalled that the 10MSP had noted the value of Tajikistan’s national demining plan incorporating Tajikistan’s intentions as concerns mined areas it had reported along the Tajik-Uzbek border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along the Tajik-Uzbek border. The Co-Chairs invited Tajikistan to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Tajikistan’s extension request, including its commitments to clear or reduce a total of 42 areas measuring 700,000 square metres along the Tajik-Afghan border and to clear or reduce three areas totalling 100,000 square metres in Tajikistan’s Central Region.

34. Tajikistan reported that in 2012 a total of four areas were subject to clearance measuring 2,150,000 square metres on the Tajik-Afghan border. Tajikistan also reported that the 2011 non-technical survey data of the Tajik-Uzbek border in four of the most affected districts was compared to new border delimitation information and the location of
landmine accidents. This comparison concluded that all accident locations occurred on the Uzbek side of the border with only one accident having occurred on the Tajikistan side of the border. As of May 2013 the remaining contamination includes 134 areas to be cleared or reduced on the Tajik-Afghan border measuring 4,890,000 square metres and 30 areas to be cleared or reduced in the Central Region measuring 2,280,000 square metres. In 2013 and 2014 Tajikistan aims to conduct non-technical survey in all affected areas to better define perimeters and land release methodologies to release no less than 1,500,000 square metres of suspected hazardous area, create a clear prioritisation system and prepare an updated work plan to complete Article 5 implementation.

35. The Co-Chairs invited Thailand to provide updates on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Thailand’s extension request, including Thailand’s commitment to clear 44 mined areas measuring 41.05 square kilometres. Thailand reported that in 2012 a total of 20.6 square kilometres have been addressed with 20.3 square kilometres being addressed through non-technical survey and technical survey and 0.3 square kilometres addressed through full clearance.

36. Thailand reported that, in 2012, it cleared 20.6 square kilometres of confirmed hazardous areas, with 20.3 square kilometres released using non-technical and technical surveys and 0.3 square kilometres released through the use of full clearance methods and with ten square kilometres have passed quality control and 7.9 square kilometres of that having been handed to local stakeholders. The results of Thailand’s efforts to date has been to reduce the amount of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines to 524.97 square kilometres in eighteen provinces. Thailand further reported that, in the past year, it has achieved a twofold increase in total land cleared and released relative to the year before. To enhance this effort, Thailand has trained 40 new deminers and it will continue to put efforts in furthering the development of best practices in land release.

37. It was recalled that it was agreed at the 9MSP that the United Kingdom would provide as soon as possible, but not later than 30 June 2010, a detailed explanation of how demining is proceeding and the implications for future demining in order to meet the United Kingdom’s obligations. It was also recalled that the 9MSP noted the value of the United Kingdom providing clarity on a schedule for fulfilling its obligation under Article 5.1 as soon as possible. In addition, the commitment of the United Kingdom was recalled to provide regular reports on the following elements: establishment of a national mine action authority and other implementation bodies; establishment of the necessary regulatory framework; progress on contracts let and budgets made available; progress in clearance; environmental, ecological and technical assessments undertaken. The Co-Chairs invited the United Kingdom to provide updates on these matters.

38. While the United Kingdom did not provide a schedule for fulfilling its obligations, it did report the clearance of 190 anti-personnel mines from Sapper Hill and 488 anti-personnel mines and 568 anti-tank mines from Surf Bay during phase 1; technical survey and referencing with 3.49 square kilometres of land released during phase 2, and; 296 anti-personnel mines, 32 anti-tank mines and 6 booby traps located and destroyed during phase 3. The United Kingdom reported that in total 4.6 square kilometres have been reduced, 22 hectares have been cleared and 4.7 square kilometres have been addressed through battle area clearance.

39. It was recalled that the 9MSP noted the value of Yemen providing further clarity regarding the extent of its remaining challenge and on steps taken by it to overcome the technical challenges that have posed as impeding circumstances in the past. The Co-Chairs invited Yemen to provide updates on these matters and on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in Yemen’s extension request, including its commitment to clear 2,055,582 square metres in Ibb, Hadhramoot, Al-Jawf, Mareb and Shabowah. Yemen reported a total of 2,585,414 square metres cleared in 2013 in Abyan, Al Dhale, Amran, Ibb and Sa’ada.
culminating in the detection and destruction of 70 anti-personnel mines, six anti-tank mines, 1,326 pieces of unexploded ordnance and one booby trap.

40. The Co-Chairs invited Zimbabwe to provide updates on commitments made in Zimbabwe’s extension request, including Zimbabwe’s commitments to develop national standards, relocate the mine action centre out of military cantonment, develop a national strategic plan and work with implementation partners to ensure a common approach to reporting and information management. The Co-Chairs also invited Zimbabwe to provide updates on 2013 milestones for progress as contained in its request, including ccompletion of Segment 1 of Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner minefield and initiation of Segment 2 of the Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner Minefield (32 kilometre double stretch from Mwenzi River to Sango Border Post), completion of survey of mined areas, training and deployment of mine clearance teams by international organizations, and clearance of 1,503,000 square metres from the Musengezi to Rwena (203,000 square meters), Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner (700,000 square meters) and Rusitu to Muzite Mission (600,000 square meters) minefields.

41. Zimbabwe reported that it continues to implement the plan contained in its extension request and has engaged the international community and other State Parties for assistance in order to address the remaining implementation challenge. Zimbabwe indicated that this year the squadron which is posted at the Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner minefield is carrying out survey and clearance of the secondary minefield and quality assurance of part of the primary and secondary minefield and has embarked on the survey and clearance of the suspected hazardous areas in Kariba, discovering and destroying 163 improvised explosive devices and releasing an area of 6,600 square metres. With the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross, a mine risk education course was set for July 2013, the development of Zimbabwean National Mine Action Standards is currently taking place, and improvements have been made to information management. Norwegian People’s Aid has conducted non-technical survey of Burma Valley and Sheba Forest to Beacon Hill minefields, has imported demining equipment into the country, led a deminer training course and was tasked to survey and clear the Burma Valley minefields. Zimbabwe also reported that the HALO Trust has been given the green light to commence demining operations, that Zimbabwe and Mozambique are working on details regarding demining their common border, and that the African Union has indicated its willingness to support Zimbabwe through the provision of mine clearance equipment and emergency trauma bags.

42. At the Cartagena Summit, it was agreed that States Parties that have reported mined areas under their jurisdiction or control will do their utmost to identify, if they have not yet done so, the precise perimeters and locations, to the extent possible, of all areas under their jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or are suspected to be emplaced, and report this information. It was also agreed that these States Parties will do their utmost to ensure that all available methods are applied where and as relevant, by developing and implementing applicable national standards, policies and procedures for releasing land through technical and non-technical means that are accountable and acceptable to local communities, including through the involvement of women and men in the acceptance process, and, that such States Parties would provide information on the areas already released, disaggregated by release through clearance, technical survey and non-technical survey. As well, it was agreed that these States Parties will do their utmost to take full national ownership of their Article 5 obligations by developing, implementing and regularly reviewing national mine action strategies and associated policies, plans, budget

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1 Cartagena Action Plan, action #14.
2 Cartagena Action Plan, actions #15 and #17.
policies and legal frameworks, inform the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance on their implementation, and provide annually, in accordance with Article 7, precise information on the number, location and size of mined areas, anticipated particular technical or operational challenges, plans to clear or otherwise release these areas. Since the 12MSP, States Parties continued efforts to act in accordance with their Cartagena Summit commitments.

43. Burundi reported that additional suspicious areas were identified by the Department of Energy and Mines surrounding high tension electrical towers in the provinces of Bururi, Bujumbura and Bubanza. In June 2013, an external assessment of the remaining implementation challenge was made, concluding that Burundi needs to conduct a non-technical survey of 66 small areas surrounding electricity pylons and of 22 former military positions, with the areas around each pylon being no larger than 200 square metres and with it considered unlikely that mines would be found. It was further concluded that Burundi can complete implementation by its 1 April 2014 deadline with the amount of work required likely to last 26 weeks.

44. Ethiopia had previously reported three areas known to contain mines in the area of Tigray and 312 areas suspected to contain mines in the areas of Afar, Somali, Oromia and Gambela. Ethiopia had previously reported that the known mined areas and suspected mined areas are not accessible due to infrastructure and road problems and remoteness around the border area. No additional information was provided in 2013.

45. Germany, through a request for an extended deadline, recalled that a former military training area, Wittstock, in the state of Brandenburg, is suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Germany indicated that the area in question had been reduced to approximately 10,000 square metres, that technical survey efforts were to be completed by the end of summer in 2013 and that clearance work would commence in 2014. Germany requested an extended deadline until 31 December 2015.

46. Hungary recalled that patches of land in Hungary along its border were suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, located from border sign no. D1 (Dráva river leaving the borderline near Keselyősfapuszta-South, belonging to the municipality Matty) to border sign no. D417 (right bank of Duna river belonging to the municipality Kőlked). Hungary indicated that the total amount of area originally of concern (i.e., a strip of land 1,000 metres wide by 79,683 metres long), should be dealt with by the end of the 2013 summer.

47. Iraq reported that the remaining work will be carried out according to its strategic plan, that non-technical survey in five provinces (Albasra, Thee Qar, Misan, Almuthana, Wasit) has been completed and that due to floods in Wasit and Misan Provinces, non-technical surveys need to be recalculated due to the drifted mines. Iraq indicated that highly mine affected areas are in Albasra, Misan, Wasit, Dyala, but that efforts in Dyala are moving forward very slowly due to the unstable security situation. In addition, Iraq reported that by the end of 2013, Thee Qar will be the first province in which implementation is complete.

48. Niger, through a request for an extended deadline, indicated that one area known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,400 square metres had been identified along with four areas suspected to contain mines, each of an unknown size. Niger requested an extended deadline until 31 December 2015.

49. Serbia, through a request for an extended deadline, indicated that as of March 2013 a total of ten “risk areas” measuring 1,221,196 square metres remained to be cleared and a
total of 12 “suspected areas” measuring 2,080,000 square metres remained to be surveyed. Serbia requested an extended deadline until 1 March 2019.

50. Somalia reported that contamination in the southern part of the country has not been quantified but that Landmine Impact Surveys were carried out in Somaliland, Punland and Sool and Sanaaq regions with 356 affected communities and 772 suspected hazardous areas identified in Somaliland, 35 affected communities and 47 suspected hazardous areas identified in Punland, 90 affected communities and 210 suspected hazardous areas identified in Sool and Sanaaq. Somalia further reported that as of 30 March 2013 a total of 333 mined areas with an unknown size remained to be addressed. Somalia indicated that this did not include the South and Central Somalia regions (Banadir, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Hiraan, Galgaduud, Mudug, Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Lower Juba and Middle Juba) where it is known that contamination is extensive.

51. South Sudan recalled that, as of September 2012, a total of 707 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines remained to be addressed amounting to 159,367,011 square metres. South Sudan further reported that the list of these areas provided in its initial transparency report should serve as a benchmark against which progress in implementation can be measured in future years.

52. Sudan, through a request for an extended deadline, reported that 279 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines or other explosive remnants of war remain to be addressed totalling approximately 38 square kilometres, with 50 per cent of the areas located in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States. Sudan further reported that these States are not secure for humanitarian demining operations at this stage due to on-going conflict. Sudan requested an extended deadline until 1 April 2019.

53. Turkey, through a request for an extended deadline, reported that a 3,514 areas totalling 213,582,010 square metres and containing 814,099 anti-personnel mines and 163,823 anti-tank mines remain to be cleared on its borders with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as in areas other than borders. Turkey requested an extended deadline until 1 March 2022.

54. At the Cartagena Summit it was agreed that States Parties that have reported mined areas under their jurisdiction or control but due to exceptional circumstances need to request an extension to their ten-year deadline will inform the States Parties of these exceptional circumstances in due time, develop the extension request in line with the recommendations made by the 7MSP and utilise the opportunity for informal dialogue with the group mandated to analyse the extension request. Since the 12MSP, requests were received by the President from Chad (2 May 2013), Mozambique (24 May 2013), Serbia (27 March 2013), Sudan (28 March 2013) and Turkey (28 March 2013). In keeping with the decisions of the 7MSP, the President informed the States Parties of the receipt of these requests and instructed the Implementation Support Unit to make these requests available to all interested actors on the Convention’s web site.

55. At the 12MSP, the States Parties made commitments should a State Party, after its original or extended deadline to implement Article 5 has expired, as an exceptional circumstance, discovers a mined area (as defined by Article 2.5 of the Convention), including a newly mined area, under its jurisdiction or control that is known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. It was agreed that if such a State Party believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference (whichever falls earlier), it should submit a request for an extended deadline, which should be as short as possible and

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4 Cartagena Action Plan, action #21.
no more than ten years, either to that Meeting or Review Conference if the timing of the
 discovery permits or to the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference if the
timing of the discovery does not permit, in accordance with the obligations enshrined in
Article 5 and the process for submission of requests for extensions agreed to at the Seventh
Meeting of the States Parties. It was further agreed that requests submitted should be
analysed also in accordance with the process agreed to at the Seventh Meeting of the States
Parties and commonly practiced since 2008, and decided upon in accordance with Article 5.
Since the 12MSP, requests for extended deadlines were received by the President from
Germany (15 April 2013) and Niger (1 July 2013).

56. Further to the commitments made at the Cartagena Summit, representatives of each
requesting State Party and the group mandated to analyse the extension requests engaged in
informal dialogue with a view to the analysing group seeking a better understanding of the
requests and to offer advice and suggestions to requesting States Parties. This cooperative
process resulted in requesting States Parties clarifying many questions about their requests
and with two States Parties (Mozambique on 3 October 2013 and Sudan on 30 July 2013)
submitting revised, improved requests.

57. At the 12MSP, the States Parties adopted recommendations regarding the process of
analysing requests submitted under Article 5 of the Convention with a view inter alia to
accelerate the analysis process in order to increase its efficiency. In 2013, the group
mandated to analyse the extension requests was hampered in doing so because of requests
that were submitted late or in an incomplete manner which saw revised requests submitted
similarly late.

58. It was also noted that the following States Parties with deadlines in 2015 will submit
extension requests for consideration at the Third Review Conference: the Democratic
Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Yemen and Zimbabwe. It was further noted that one
additional State Party has a deadline that occur in 2015: Ethiopia. In light of the dates of the
Third Review Conference, it was recommended by the 12MSP President that requests for
consideration at the Third Review Conference should be submitted no later than 15
December 2013.

59. In recalling that it has been agreed that States Parties in the process of implementing
Article 5 would “ensure and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their efforts,” at
least in part by “using the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) as a frame of
reference to establish national standards and operational procedures in order to be of benefit
to national authorities in meeting their obligations under Article 5,” at the 29 May 2013
meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance States Parties, were informed of
important amendments to the IMAS concerning land release.

60. It was noted that the amended IMAS point to more consistent and unambiguous use
of terminology, and the use of terminology that aligns itself with terms used in the
Convention. In particular, it was noted that the two-tiered classification of “Suspected
Hazardous Area” and “Confirmed Hazardous Area”, which is simple, well-defined and
should be easily understood, aligns itself well with Convention obligations to deal with
areas known, and areas suspected, to contain anti-personnel mines. It was further noted that
the amended IMAS also provide the basis for more effective reporting under the
Convention and for monitoring of implementation.