

Fourth Review Conference 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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Consideration of submissions of States Parties as provided for in Article 5

Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

Executive summary

Submitted by Cambodia

1. The Kingdom of Cambodia signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on 3 December 1997 and ratified it on 28 July 1999, becoming a State Party on 1 January 2000.
2. Due to the magnitude and nature of the anti-personnel mine (APM) problem in the country, Cambodia needed to extend its Article 5 mine clearance deadline. On 11 May 2009, Cambodia submitted a request to extend its 1 January 2010 mine clearance deadline. The request was granted at the Second Review Conference and a new deadline was set for 1 January 2020.
3. During its initial extension request Cambodia carried out a Baseline Survey (BLS) project which, led to the reduction of known mine affected area from 1,377,172,548 square metres to 890,437,236 square metres. At present, BLS activities are ongoing across 73 districts with 23 districts having been surveyed 50 additional districts to be surveyed by 2020.
4. During this period, up to 2018, Cambodia released a total of 577,171,932 square metres of suspected and known mined areas with a total of 175,084,530 square metres cancelled through non-technical survey, 109,970,680 square metres reduced through technical survey and 292,116,722 square metres addressed through clearance, identifying and destroying in the process 101,424 anti-personnel mines, 1,560 anti-tank mines and 73,231 items of explosive remnants of war.
5. The targets projected in Cambodia's initial extension request were exceeded due to improved land release procedures and the implementation of updated Cambodian Mine Action Standards. This included moving away from clearance towards a toolbox approach that includes, non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance.
6. The Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) continues to regulate and coordinate all mine action activities throughout the country. It continues to lead the development and implementation of various policies and procedures, as well as taking the lead in the development and establishment of national mine action strategic plans. The CMAA regulates and monitors all mine action operations in Cambodia. This includes licensing of mine action organisations as well as monitoring and reporting on their



performance against the national standards and guidelines. The creation of CMAA Quality Management Teams (QMT) in 2008 contributed to increased quality of operations.

7. The Cambodian National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) 2010-2019 was approved in 2010 to support the implementation of the first extension request. It mainstreamed mine action programming into existing Government systems for planning and priority setting. A new NMAS (2018-2025) was approved in December 2017, as part of this strategy, Cambodia approved the Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan (2018-2022) in 2018.

8. The CMAA maintains the annual clearance workplan for the entire sector. Planning and prioritization guidelines used by the Provincial Mine Action Committee (PMAC) and Mine Action Planning Units (MAPU) were improved in 2017, allowing clearance resources to be better targeted.

9. During the extension period, mine risk education (MRE) sessions were delivered to 1,500,751 men, 1,320,084 women, 1,166,974 boys and 1,050,563 girls across the country¹. The Royal Government of Cambodia contributed US \$750,000 annually since 2013 to mine risk education for these and other efforts. Casualty numbers are decreasing, with the Cambodia Mine/ERW Victim Information System (CMVIS) recording 257 AP mine casualties during the period of the first request, compared to the first period of implementation, (2000-2010), with accidents mainly caused by the following activities: handling mines, as a bystander, farming and/or collecting wood.

10. The CMAA manages the national mine action database, the main repository of information of the Cambodian mine action sector. During the first extension period the CMAA improved and diversified the technology it uses to generate various datasets, allowing more information to be shared and thereby supporting strategic planning and prioritization of all activities in the mine action sector.

11. The Royal Government of Cambodia contributed US \$99,492,134 to the mine action sector between 2010 and 2018, with total contributions received of US \$340,202,365².

12. Unfortunately, Cambodia was not able to address its remaining challenge during the extension period due to the following impeding factors: (1) sheer scale of the problem; (2) demining technologies and methodologies available; (3) available international donor funds; and (4) resources allocated to high priority areas (5) un-demarcated border areas; (6) available resources; (7) inaccessible areas; (8) competing development priorities and demands; and (9) data discrepancies.

13. As of December 2018, Cambodia has a remaining challenge of 890,437,236 square metres. In addition to contamination by anti-personnel mines, there remains 737,712,605 square metres of cluster munitions affected land and 468,204,771 square metres of explosive remnants of war (ERW) affected land.

14. This contamination continues to impede safe access to agricultural land, housing land, water resources, forests and markets. National development projects, including hydropower plants, irrigation projects and roads also need to be deemed safe prior to the start of the project. The impact of mines and ERW are captured in the Government's National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023. Cambodia also adopted a Cambodia Specific Sustainable Development Goal (CSDG) #18 on mines/ERW: End the negative impact of mines/ERW and promote victim assistance.

15. Cambodia is fully committed to the Maputo +15 Declaration and is seeking a six-year extension under Article 5, paragraph 1, from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2025. This requested six-year period is based on:

- An estimated 806,187,236 square metres released by 2025.
- The release of 84,250,000 square metres in 2019.

¹ These numbers are indicative as a certain individual may have attended more than one MRE session.

² These figures cover funding to anti-personnel mine, anti-tank mine, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war clearance, as well as equipment.

- The release of 220,000,000 square metres annually in 2020-2021.
- The release of 146,546,809 square metres of mined areas annually from 2022-2025.
- 500 priority villages mine free by 2021.

During the second period of extension Cambodia will also aim to:

- Strengthen the capacity of operators to provide effective mine/explosive remnant of war (ERW) risk education in impacted areas, including coordinating the provision of risk education to emerging high-risk areas.
- Continue to implement the Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan (GMAP 2018- 2022). This includes developing the gender mainstreaming guidelines and strengthening the capacity of the sector in implementing such guidelines.
- Continue improving capacity, the use of appropriate demining equipment and skills, better documentation, improved and more prompt data collection and presentation, information management, gender mainstreaming, mine risk education, victim assistance, planning and prioritization for mine/ERW, quality management and the management of the sector are also important.

16. The required human and financial resources are known, Cambodia will continue its current funding, contribute to the deployment of additional deminers and provide matching funds of 10 per cent against any financial contribution from the international donor community. Cambodia will require US \$165.3 million from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2025 to release all known and suspected mined areas.

17. At least 2,000 additional deminers needed to meet the meet the 2025 goal. It is expected that the Royal Cambodian Army will train and deploy these additional deminers. Under the concept, it is expected that the Government will cover the salaries, insurance, uniforms and operational costs of these soldiers. Support from operators and the international donor community will be needed for training, vehicles and equipment. It is estimated that \$19 million will be needed for vehicles and equipment, with Cambodia granting tax exemptions for all such vehicles and equipment.

18. The Royal Government of Cambodia will retain the current institutional structure with CMAA continuing to regulate, manage, oversee and coordinate all mine action activities in the country. Provincial Mine Action Committees and MAPUs, together with operators and communities will continue to determine priorities in demining to ensure community needs are considered during the planning and prioritization process and cleared land is used as intended. The CMAA will ensure that mine action information is consistently available, and information management capacity is maintained and improved through greater use of new technology. Mine action organizations are expected to continue providing periodic expert advice to Cambodia. The Geneva international Centre for Humanitarian Demining, James Madison University, and the United Nations Mine Action Service are expected to provide technical advice on a range of areas as well as provide independent sector reviews when needed. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will continue its work in providing financial, technical and policy support to the mine action sector.

19. To ensure sustainability, Cambodia's NMAS outlines the transitional and exit phase for international assistance, localization of ordnance removal and the dealing with residual threats post-2025. Progress will be measured based on monitoring and analysis of the strategy's key indicators. This is mainstreamed into Cambodia's mine action processes, mainly through the performance monitoring system.

20. It is assumed that Cambodia is on track in delivering the first phase of the NMAS strategy. Other assumptions include:

- BLS activities are completed in 73-unsurveyed/partially surveyed districts by 2020.

- At least 2,000 additional deminers are trained and deployed to meet current known challenges and any new areas identified by BLS activities.
- Financial resources to the mine action sector will increase by 2021
- Current partnerships with international and national organizations will continue and expand to support Cambodia during the extension period.

21. Clearance along border areas is outlined in section 6 of the General Border Commission- Circular 02 of March 2017. Section 5 of Government Decision No. 53, dated January 2019 further outlines the role of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in demining border areas. Cambodia will provide further updates on clearance along border areas at formal and informal Meetings of States Parties.

22. Risk factors will be updated on an annual basis and include: (1) financial resources not secured from the international donor community; (2) natural disasters; (3) global, regional or national financial crisis; and (4) land release in un-demarcated border areas.

23. Cambodia will make the following contributions towards activities to be implemented during the period of the second extension request:

- Cash contributions. The Government will continue contributing towards clearance and management of the sector.
- Counterpart contributions. The Government will continue to take responsibility for import tax of mine clearance equipment certified and approved by the CMAA. In addition, the Government will provide a 10 per cent cost contribution (in-kind and/or in-cash) against any new contribution related to mine/ERW removal, survey and related training. Finally, it will provide a 10 per cent in-cash contribution to the CMAA/UNDP Clearing for Results project.
- Deployment of Royal Cambodian Army deminers. While still being discussed, it is expected that the Government will be responsible for the salaries and operational costs of the 2,000 deminers and 100 support personnel involved in humanitarian mine action activities.

24. Cambodia will seek support from the international donor community and the private sector. A resource mobilisation strategy is in place. Key points from the strategy are outlined as follows:

- Secure additional Government funding to mine action;
- Encourage traditional donors to continue their support to the sector for as long possible;
- Identify new and emerging donors, including studying use of soft loans from multilateral institutions and establishing a trust fund; and
- Establish private funding and private sector partnerships.

25. CMAA will work with the Convention's Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance to seek support from States Parties under the individualized approach. The first meeting is planned for the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo in November 2019.