

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium (Chair), France, Iraq, and Sri Lanka)

#### Intersessional Meetings 20 – 22 June 2022

#### PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THAILAND

##### I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #22)

1. Thailand reported that in 2021 it addressed 61 mined areas measuring 23,114,663 square metres, including 20,409,492 square metres cancelled, 2,179,324 square metres reduced and 525,847 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 19,002 anti-personnel mines, 3 anti-vehicle mines and 881 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2019 updated work plan. The Committee welcomed Thailand providing disaggregated information on progress in accordance with land release methodology using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (Action #8, Action #22).

##### II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

3. The Committee observed that Thailand provided a high degree of clarity<sup>1</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Thailand reported a remaining challenge of 192 mined areas measuring 40,026,420 square metres located in 18 Districts of 7 Provinces, including, 160 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 21,783,578 square metres and 32 suspected hazardous areas measuring 18,242,842 square metres. Thailand reported 31 of these mined areas measuring 14,041,387 square metres are located in areas to be demarcated (Action #22).
4. The Committee welcomed Thailand reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, and type of contamination (Action #22).
5. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. The Committee observed that Thailand was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and welcomes updated information in this regard.
6. The Committee recalled that Thailand, in its 2022 extension request submitted for considerations by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, indicated that during the baseline survey of mine contamination, inclusive community interviews were conducted in all areas, in which women, girls,

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<sup>1</sup> "High degree of clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas (known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "known" or "suspected"), and Information on the geographic location of each area.

boys and men from all residential groups, including the minority groups, were consulted (Action #18).

### **III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)**

7. The Committee recalled that Thailand's updated work plan submitted in 2019 contained a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place for the period of 2018- 2023, consisting of two phases, Phase 1: completed on 31 October 2018, and Phase 2: 1 November 2018 – 31 October 2023 (Action #2, Action #19).
8. Thailand reported annually adjusted milestones based on new evidence that projects to address 17,386,841 square metres in 2022, including 2,971,911 square metres of suspected hazardous area and 14,414,930 square metres of confirmed hazardous area, and 8,598,192 square metres of confirmed hazard areas in "operable areas" and 14,041,387 square metres in areas to be demarcated in 2023 (Action #20).
9. The Committee observed that Thailand in its 2022 extension request submitted for consideration by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP), included a work plan for the period of the request, including;
  - Phase 1, (Nov 2023 – Oct 2024) 5,328,050 square metres in 5 provinces; Sa Kaeo, Trat, Buri Ram, Surin and Si Sa Ket;
  - Phase 2 (Nov 2024 – Oct 2025) 5,149,998 square metres in 5 provinces, Sa Kaeo, Trat, Surin, Si Sa Ket and Ubon Ratchathani, and;
  - Phase 3 (Nov 2025 – Dec 2026) 563,339 square metres in 3 provinces, Sa Kaeo, Trat and Si Sa Ket.
10. Thailand also reported that the Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC) proposed to the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) a new project for cooperation between both sides on 31 August 2021. Subsequently, TMAC has proposed the areas for operations, and is currently waiting for comments and suggestions from CMAC. Thailand reported that once preliminarily agreement has been made on the selected areas, the plan will be submitted to the Thailand-Cambodia General Border Committee (GBC) for endorsement. The 15th GBC, initially scheduled in February 2022, is currently postponed upon request of Cambodia to be held in a physical format. The Committee welcomes the update from Thailand and welcome further information on the progress of cooperation and a timeline for the joint demining project (Action #20).
11. Thailand reported on making national financial commitments to implementation, including US\$7,500,000 annually covering personnel, and operations. Thailand also reported US \$ 313,982.31 in additional funds and US \$87,560.13 for the procurement of equipment (Action #1).
12. The Committee observed that Thailand in its 2022 extension request submitted for consideration by the 20MSP indicated the objective of enhancing international cooperation with international partners through community engagement, regional and multilateral frameworks. The Committee welcomes the information from Thailand and would welcome additional information on its efforts in this regard (Action #1).
13. The Committee observed that Thailand in its 2022 extension request submitted for consideration by the 20MSP had indicated a community engagement project for all stages of its mine action operations co-proposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and the Thai Civilian Deminer Association (TDA) to the ASEAN Secretariat for the funding from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund.

The Committee welcomes the information from Thailand and would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #6).

14. The Committee recalled that Thailand, in its 2022 extension request submitted for consideration by the 20MSP, had indicated that during the baseline survey of mine contamination, inclusive community interviews were conducted in all areas, in which women, girls, boys and men from all residential groups, including the minority groups, were consulted (Action #3).
15. The Committee recalled that Thailand had provided information on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas that may be discovered following Thailand declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations in its 2017 extension request, indicating that “Five Humanitarian Mine Action Units (HMAU) were established to conduct demining operations and cooperate with other local organizations in conducting MRE and victim assistance”, and that once Thailand becomes mine-free, TMAC will shift focus from clearance to an information and knowledge centre for landmines and unexploded ordnance. The Committee would welcome additional information from Thailand on its efforts in this regard (Action #26).

#### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)**

16. Thailand reported that in 2021 it was field testing a revised version of NMAS in line with the latest IMAS. The Committee welcomes the information from Thailand and would welcome further information on the timeline for approval of the updated of its NMAS (Action #5).
17. Thailand reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national information management system, including the use of ARC GIS to allow policy-makers to view and analyse the overall mine situation, allow operators to effectively plan operations and assist the Information Management unit to effectively store the necessary statistics from all operations. The Committee observed that Thailand in its 2022 requested indicated that TMAC had improved its information management system by utilising the internal Cloud which allows all Humanitarian Mine Action Units (HMAU) under TMAC supervision to easily access the data necessary for carrying out their operations, with HMAU enabled to search for data while on operations in remote areas using their mobile and laptop devices (Action #9).
18. Thailand reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including the use of UAV drone technology to conduct survey and operational planning (Action #27).

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

19. In considering Thailand’s 2017 extension request, the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) requested Thailand to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Thailand on;
  - Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Work Plan contained in Thailand’s request;
  - Update on efforts put forth during Phase 1 of Thailand’s Plan of Work to prepare for Phase 2 of the Work Plan including the progress of negotiations in order to address Areas to be Demarcated;

- The outcomes of survey efforts and how additional clarity obtained may change Thailand's estimation of the remaining implementation challenge;
- Update on progress in updating the National Mine Action Standards to be in line with the latest version of IMAS and the results of this effort;
- Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Thailand to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to expand its civilian demining capacity and the results of these effort;
- Updates on efforts to explore new technology to help survey areas with are hard to access near the borders and the results of these efforts; and
- Update on efforts to make continuous improvements in the capacity of its information management team, systems and processes to enable more precise information on survey and clearance operations to be collected and displayed.

## **VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)**

20. Thailand reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R) ) the methodologies used, including the integration of MRE into village health volunteers work during COVID-19, as well as challenges faced and results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).
21. Thailand reported that MRE is integrated into ongoing survey, clearance activities as well as with village health volunteer activities, as well as through the use of periodic school visits, village visits, local press, community leaders, authorities, social media platforms and community radio broadcasts (Action #28).
22. Thailand reported that risk education operations are planned to ensure the most vulnerable are kept informed of the risks, with each Humanitarian Mine Action Unit (HMAU) coordinating with local community leaders and authorities on the broadcast of MRE messages and the role of HMAU in determining which groups are most vulnerable in line with Action #29. The Committee welcomes the information from Thailand would welcome additional information in this regard.
23. Action #30 of the OAP requests States to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. The Committee observed that, while Thailand reported that MRE operations are adapted to suit specific conditions and local settings, including the deployment of mobile MRE teams to mine-affected areas along known commuting routes, especially near border areas, Thailand had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to link MRE/R programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data. The Committee would welcome further information in this regard.
24. The Committee observed that Thailand reported a national capacity to deliver MRE/R programmes through HMAU, village health workers and teachers. (Action #31).

## **VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)**

25. The Committee observed that Thailand provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including, access to areas with heavy contamination, challenging geographical landscape with mined areas located in deep forests, mountains and extremely remote areas, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and access to mined areas along the border. Thailand also reported on the challenges faced in the implementation of MRE/R, including the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Thai Children's Day events.
26. Thailand also reported that during the reporting period Thai humanitarian mine action operators were requested on several occasions by local Cambodian military garrisons to stop demining operations.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Thailand**  
**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

| Actions | Indicators  | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August) |
|---------|---|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| #1      | # States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate |      |      |      |      |      |   |
|         | % mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #2      | % mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place   |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #3      | % affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account   |      |      |      |      |      |   |
|         | # women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #5      | % States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #6      | # States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #8      | # States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
|         | # States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings   |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #9      | % States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place   |      |      |      |      |      |   |

**SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS**

| Actions | Indicators  | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Additional information requested from the Committee<br>(deadline 9 August) |
|---------|---|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| #18     | % affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP) |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|         | % affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| #19     | % affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)                  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| #20     | # affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports   |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|         | # States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| #21     | # States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| #22     | % of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS   |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|         | % of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| #23     | % extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period   |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|         | % extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties  |      |      |      |      |      |  |

| #24                                      | % extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
|--|--|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| #25                                      | % States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #26                                      | % affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans   |      |      |      |      |      |   |
|  | % affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas   |      |      |      |      |      |   |
|  | % States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties   |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #27                                      | # States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means   |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| <b>MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION</b> |  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| Actions                                  | Indicators   | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)   |
| #28                                      | % affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #29                                      | % affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
|  | % States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs  |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| #30                                      | # States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes  |      |      |      |      |      | The Committee would welcome additional information from Thailand on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected |

|     |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|-----|--|--|--|--|--|---|
|     |  |  |  |  |  | population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. |
| #31 | # States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered |  |  |  |  |   |
| #32 | # States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results  |  |  |  |  |   |

