

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia, France (Chair), Iraq, and Sweden)

#### Intersessional Meetings 19 – 21 June 2023

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

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

1. Thailand reported that in 2022 it addressed 59 mined areas measuring 10,391,903 square metres, including 4,616,955 square metres cancelled, 5,444,082 square metres reduced and 330,866 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 11,421 anti-personnel mines and 1,487 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. Thailand also reported it had identified a previously unknown mined area of 63,998 square metres in Surin Province. Thailand further reported that Phitsanulok Province had been declared mine-free.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2022 extension request. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was more than that projected in Thailand's 2022 extension request. The Committee welcomed Thailand providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology, using the Guide to Reporting, in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and disaggregated by type of contamination (Action #8, Action #22).

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

4. 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 141 mined areas measuring 29,698,515 square metres located in 17 Districts of 6 Provinces, including 59 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 18,137,899 square metres and 82 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 11,560,616 square metres. Thailand reported that 31 of these mined areas measuring 14,041,387 square metres are located in areas to be demarcated on the border with Cambodia (Action #22).
5. The Committee welcomed Thailand reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHAs and CHAs and their relative size, and type of contamination (Action #22).
6. 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

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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.

Committee observed that Thailand was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and welcomes updated information from Thailand on these efforts.

7. Action #18 of the OAP requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee recalled that while Thailand, in its 2022 extension request 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, the Committee noted that Thailand had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #18 and would welcome further information in this regard.

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

8. The Committee recalled that Thailand's extension request submitted in 2022 contained a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place for the period 2023- 2026 (Action #2, Action #19).
9. Thailand reported annually adjusted milestones based on new evidence of 9,233,724 square metres in 2023 (Action #20).
10. Thailand reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of US\$7,500,000 covering personnel and operations. Thailand further reported on the 'Rueang Phueng Demining Operation to access mine contaminated areas with additional support from the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters to airlift personnel into challenging geographical landscape', computers and office supplies (Action #1).
11. Thailand reported on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, including efforts of the Thai Mine Action Centre (TMAC) and the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) to sign the agreement on demining cooperation along the border, and conduct survey to identify potential areas to be included in the new joint demining cooperation project, and participation in Steering Committee of ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) and other activities under the ARMAC framework (Action #1, Action #6).
12. Action #3 of the OAP requests States to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes, in order to deliver an inclusive approach and to strive to remove barriers to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action and in Convention meetings. The Committee recalled that while Thailand, in its 2022 extension request, 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, Thailand had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #3 and would welcome further information in this regard.
13. Thailand reported on its 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, including building capacity of existing Humanitarian Mine Action Units (HMAU) to conduct both survey and clearance operations (Action #26).

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

14. Thailand reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards (NMAA) up to date highlighting that in 2022 it revised and updated both its NMAS and Standard Operating Procedures to be in line with IMAS with an expected date of official endorsement May 2023 (Action #5).
15. Thailand reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national information management system, including the use of geographical information systems (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. (Action #9).
16. Thailand reported on its efforts to take appropriate steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, highlighting the utilisation of drone technology to conduct survey and support operational planning (Action #27).

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

17. In considering Thailand's 2022 extension request, the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) 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 Thailand's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land release methodology employed, (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance);
  - The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and update on how additional clarity obtained may change Thailand's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;
  - Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed manually and how priorities have been established;
  - Updates on the proposed "Pilot Project on Demining Cooperation along the Border of Thailand and Cambodia" including information on projected steps and timeline for endorsement and approval;
  - Updates on the outcomes of border coordination activities and the implementation of the multi-level framework in support of joint demining activities;
  - Updates regarding the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
  - Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Thailand to support implementation efforts, including projected gaps in funding; and
  - Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities.

18. The Committee recalled that in considering Thailand's 2022 extension request, the 20MSP requested Thailand to submit to the Committee by 30 April 2024, an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting 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.

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

18. 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).
19. Thailand reported on its efforts to integrate MRE with wider efforts highlighting 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, social media applications, and community radio broadcasts (Action #28).
20. Thailand reported on its efforts to provide context-specific MRE programmes, indicating that MRE/R efforts were carried out in line with Action #29. The Committee welcomes the information from Thailand would welcome additional information in this regard (Action #29).
21. 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 Thailand had not included updated information on its efforts in implementation of Action #30 and would welcome further information in this regard.
22. Thailand reported on its efforts to build national capacities, highlighting the role of HMAU and TMAC as the responsible agency to dispatch certified MRE personnel to conduct MRE activities (Action #31).

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

23. The Committee observed that Thailand provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including challenging geographical landscapes, extreme terrain and weather conditions and high density minefields, impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need for necessary equipment, including mine detectors, new technologies, and addition survey teams would enhance the capacity of mine clearance operations and expedite the ongoing process for Thailand to become mine-free in a timely manner. Thailand also reported on the challenges faced in the implementation of MRE/R, including the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on traditional MRE/R activities, such as events, exhibitions and Thai Children's Day activities.

24. 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 28 July)
<b>#1</b>	# 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						
<b>#2</b>	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
<b>#3</b>	% 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						The Committee would welcome information from Thailand on its efforts to integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
<b>#5</b>	% 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						
<b>#6</b>	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
<b>#8</b>	# 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					
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SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#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)						The Committee observed that Thailand was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and welcomes updated information from Thailand on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						The Committee noted that Thailand had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #18 and would welcome further information in this regard.
#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>								
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)</b>	
#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							The Committee welcomes the information from Thailand would welcome additional information in this regard.
#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.
<b>#31</b>	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered						
<b>#32</b>	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						



