



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN
CONVENTION, GENEVA, 18-20 JUNE 2024

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to express my gratitude on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia for the opportunity to provide an update on our Article 5 implementation progress.

From July to 31 December 2023, we have released 263 square kilometers of land contaminated by all forms of explosive ordnance. In total 13,574 anti-personnel mines, 131 anti-tank mines, and 42,030 items of other explosive remnants of war were found and destroyed. Released land has been put back into productive use by the affected communities for resettlement, agriculture, infrastructure development, and other purposes. Furthermore, the number of mine and ERW casualties has been brought down from 4,320 in 1996 to 32 in 2023.

At present Cambodia has a remaining challenge of 515,000,000 square meters to be released. These 515,000,000 square meters included 435,064,084 square meters that were previously recorded in Cambodia national information management system and 79,935,916 square meters projected to be discovered, based on previous estimates. To release the remaining 515,000,000 square meters, Cambodia needs US\$ 132,355,000.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has recently decided to assign national operators to complete a comprehensive survey of minefields along the Cambodia-Thailand border. The motivation behind this decision is that many locations within the border area have not been surveyed due to inaccessibility, remoteness, a lack of information and resources, and due to recently reported

accidents in this area occurred outside existing minefield polygons. The survey is scheduled to commence in July and conclude by the end of this year. Cambodia will provide regular updates to the States Parties regarding the survey's progress and its impact on Cambodia's Article 5 obligations.

Despite these achievements, Cambodia is still facing several major challenges, including:

- a. **Geographical Difficulties:** Minefields along the Cambodia-Thailand border are located in extremely difficult geographical mountainous terrain and heavily forested areas. These areas are densely contaminated, requiring more time and resources for teams to access and clear.
- b. **Large Suspected Areas:** Areas suspected to contain mines remain large, and there is a high possibility of discovering new mine-contaminated areas through the comprehensive survey mentioned above.
- c. **Need for Stronger Cooperation:** Stronger cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand is needed to continue the efforts to clear mine-contaminated areas along the border.
- d. **Insufficient Funds:** There are insufficient funds for mine clearance.

In light of these challenges, it has become evident that extending the deadline beyond 2025 for completing destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in Cambodia is necessary. We will work with all key stakeholders to ensure the participatory and inclusive process to prepare a realistic extension request for its submission by 31 March 2025.

Cambodia would like to reassure our commitment to the implementation of our obligations under the Convention, particularly in areas such as mine clearance, victim assistance, gender mainstreaming, and environment protection.

It is also worth noting that while Cambodia faces a significant remaining challenge due to anti-personnel mines, Cambodia is also contaminated by other explosive ordnance. This required further efforts and funding to address.

We sincerely appeal to States Parties, and States not parties to the Convention and development partners to continue supporting Cambodia to achieve completion of its Article 5 obligations as soon as possible.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my profound gratitude and compliments to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and all the development partners who have been supporting the mine action sector in Cambodia.

Thank you.