

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THAILAND

I. Progress in implementation

1. Thailand reported that in 2018 it released 39 mined areas measuring 32,749,626 square metres in 16 districts of 8 Provinces, including 28,971,754 square metres cancelled, 2,248,970 square metres reduced, and 528,902 square metres cleared destroying 7,405 anti-personnel mines and 1,147 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with information provided in its 2017 extension request. The Committee observed that Thailand's outputs for the year 2018 were less than projected. The Committee welcomes Thailand reporting a manner consistent with IMAS and further welcomed Thailand employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee observed that Thailand provided a high degree of clarity on its remaining challenge. Thailand reported that during the reporting period additional SHA measuring 94,296 square metres was identified, 1,170 square metres in Trat Province, 6,832 square metres in Surin Province, 25,184 square metres in Surin Province, 57,531 square metres in Si Saket Province, and 3,579 square metres in Yala Province.
4. Thailand reported that as of 31 December 2018, 254 SHAs located in 25 districts, of 10 provinces, totalling 360,001,368 square metres remain to be addressed. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in 2018 that Thailand reported as of 31 December 2018, 254 SHAs located in 29 districts, of 13 provinces, remain to be addressed. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further updates from Thailand on the status of completion of 4 districts and 3 Provinces.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. The Committee observed that Thailand planned to conduct survey in 10 Provinces with a target to release 120,847,688 square metres.
6. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in 2018 that Thailand had classified its remaining challenge as SHAs that can be operated/surveyed measuring 42,946,771 square metres and SHAs that are currently inaccessible due to pending demarcation process measuring 348,709,927 square metres. The Committee would welcome information on Thailand's progress to complete Phase 1 by 1 November 2018.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. In its updated work plan submitted on 30 April 2019 Thailand reported that it had conducted revision of NMAS chapters related to land release and were declared effective in September 2018.

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

8. The Committee observed that Thailand had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2017 extension request granted at the 16MSP. The Committee recalled that on 30 April 2019 Thailand submitted to the States Parties on an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee welcomes the information contained in the work plan and would welcome further information on Thailand's efforts to complete Phase 1 by 1 November 2018.

VI. Mine risk reduction

9. The Committee observed that Thailand has reported in detail on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including by raising awareness and promoting behavioural changes through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities. Thailand reported that its MRE programmes reached 39, 486 beneficiaries in 2018. The Committee noted that Thailand reported in a sex and age disaggregated manner for the period November and December and that data for the period January – October has yet to be disaggregated.
10. The Committee observed that the information on MRE messaging and beneficiaries provided by Thailand was not disaggregated by gender and age and encourages Thailand to disaggregate statistics in this manner. The Committee welcomes further information on Thailand's efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.