S1. Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, first of all, using the opportunity, I would like to thank the Committee of Convention and the ISU for the organization of the Intersessional Meeting meeting. On this slide you can see the process of the manual demining training in the TNMAC Training Center. And as you noticed, we indicated the year 2030, as Tajikistan is planning to submit a next Extension Request for 2026-2030. And, we received the official information from the ISU to submit this new Extension Request by 31 March 2025.

There are still many challenges ahead, but we are confident that if we work together more effectively and efficiently, we will manage to make Tajikistan free from mine. As you may know the territory of Tajikistan is 93% mountains, and the photo that you can see right now was taken during the demining operations in high-mountainous area of our country.

S2. Since the beginning of the National humanitarian demining operations in the country, the Humanitarian Demining Company of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) were the only demining operators in Tajikistan.

Later on, the Norwegian People's Aid and the Union of Sappers of Tajikistan joined the land release activities in the country. These agencies continue land release operations in the country. This slide illustrates their current operational capacity of Tajikistan Mine Action Programme.

S3. The progress made since the start of the programme in 2004 up to end of June 2024 is that more than 33,9 million m2 of contaminated land is released through survey and mine clearance. These activities resulted in 85,183 AP and AT mines, as well as 36,846 ERW found and destroyed. In total, 414 hazardous areas were released.

On the map you can see the hazardous areas symbols, the green color shows cleared areas, the grey color shows the unsurveyed areas, and the red color - the remaining areas that require clearance. This chart shows the results of land release since 2004. The area of 33.8 km2 (or in other words 3380 hectares) cleared from mines and UXO, and as a result, 120 978 anti-personnel mines and UXO, were found and destroyed. Thus, 412 cleared areas with the size of 27 km2, or in other words 2700 hectares, were handed over to the local executive authorities for safe use.

As you can see in this chart, the annual demining results increase and decrease due to the changes in the number of demining teams, the lack of use of mechanical demining machines and demining dogs, and the decrease in funding from donor community and development partners. The colors in the diagram represent the methods of clearing land from mines.

S.4 Here, I would like to bring to your attention the updates on the progress made by Tajikistan during 2019-2023 in accordance with the Extension Request.

In 2019, on the date of submission of our second extension request, the Remaining challenge was 8,848,210 m².

In accordance with the Extension request, the planned target for the period 2019-2023 was 6,539,291 m².

But the result of land release for the period 2019-end of 2023 was 6,537,063 m² under the current Extension Request. Thus, as you can see – about 2.3 million m2 are left for clearance in the framework of the current Extension Request, that is by the end of 2025.

(In 2024 (from 15 March 2024 to 10 June 2024) the results of manual clearance, reduction and

cancellation is 113,094 m2 as result found and destroyed 849 APM and UXO. Regarding implementation of 4 EOD Spot Tasks in 2024 – destroyed 3 AVM, 199 EOs and 19,076 SAA, and over 41 kg Explosive.).)

S5. However! The reality shows a different situation. Despite the significant progress made by the country there is still much to be done ahead – unknown minefields which had no minefield records and other information were found during the survey operations within the Extension period. The total number of the found unknown minefields is 52, with the total area of more than 9 million m2 – Here you can see red areas where these minefields were found.

S6. On this slide you can see the Survey activities carried out during the period of 2019 – 2023. Brown color demonstrates the size of confirmed areas with minefield records, and the red color – the confirmed new hazard areas which have no minefield records – divided by years. In other words – this shows more details for the previous slide.

S7. Now I would like to give some information on the workplan for the period of 2021-2025. As was recommended by the ISU, all remaining

hazard areas are divided among the demining actors in Tajikistan. This is also indicated in the recently submitted Updated Land Release Operational Plan for 2023-2025.

The remaining challenge by end May 2024 – 154 hazard areas measuring 11,982,291 m². From this amount - 145 CHAs measuring 11,034,291 m²; and 9 SHAs measuring around 948,000 m².

Here you can see the table demonstrating more detailed projections of the size of contaminated areas to be addressed annually to achieve completion. And here it is shown in two colours: orange - with current available resources, and blue - with required additional funding. From this assessment is seen that with current available resources Tajikistan can complete its land release operations only by the end of 2030.

S8. The majority of territory of Tajikistan is mountainous and higher number of contaminated areas are located in remote hard-to-reach high-hill area. Most of the hazard areas are located in remote territories with no access or limited access. On this slide you can see the terrains where hazard areas are located in our country.

Other factors hampering land release operations are:

- Short demining season;
- Rain, snow and hot weather restricts operational time;
- Rock falls, landslides, avalanches on hazard areas causing migration of mines;
- Security issues;
- Depth of mines in the minefield;
- Engineering structures and barriers (metal)

S9. Finally, I would like to highlight that Tajikistan is on track to fulfil its mine clearance obligations under Article 5.

For this, Tajikistan has a solid legislative base and human resources for land release operations. Recognizing that capacity must be increased, the Government of Tajikistan is ready to provide the personnel needed for additional teams through the military authorities as their contribution to meeting the country's obligations in front of the Ottawa Convention. But our country is in high need of additional funding support to ensure that the obligations are met. And taking into account the information which I shared with you above, Tajikistan intends to prepare and submit its extension for five years more.

At the end, on behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank our current

donors, US Department of State, OSCE, Norway and our partners FSD, NPA, GICHD, ISU, ICRC for their valuable contribution to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme. And I would like to urge the international donor community to grant its support to Tajikistan Mine Action Programme to make our country mine-free and by doing this to improve the lives of our people and help the economy of Tajikistan grow.

Thank you for your attention!

S10. According to TNMAC statistics and post-clearance impact assessments, government and local population use the cleared land for agriculture, road reconstruction, disaster mitigation activities, water supply, cross-border trade, fishery, construction of transmission/communication lines, coal/gold mining activities and maintenance of dams along the rivers. Almost half of the cleared area used as a pasture land and for crop production. Also, when the lands are returned to the population for the safe use for agricultural activities, pasturing, gardening, construction of the channel for irrigation and drinking water – this significantly contributes to the process of adaptation to the climate change.

S11. This slide shows the statistics of mine/UXO victims where people were injured or died. Explosive incidents mainly occur as a result of carelessness with hazardous materials and unauthorized entry into hazard areas, even when the warning sign is installed. In Tajikistan beginning from 1992 to the present day, 890 persons suffered from mines and unexploded ordnance, 351 persons died and 539 persons received various injuries.

S12. Victim Assistance remains one of the most important components of Mine Action that requires special attention. TNMAC facilitates physical rehabilitation through capacity building of National Ortho Center staff, conducting VA Technical Working group meetings in the regional centers and Dushanbe, as well as organizing summer rehabilitation workshop-camps for survivors.

This slide illustrates:

- psychological support through organizing summer rehabilitation camps and provision of first psychological aid; as well as group work during the Technical working group meetings.

S13. TNMAC regularly provides EORE sessions to local population. The participants of these events are the specialists of districts education departments, teachers and students of secondary schools, representatives of local executive authorities and the local communities, as you can see in the presented slide. EORE significantly contributes to further reducing of mine accidents in the contaminated areas of Tajikistan.

S14. For the purposes of effective information management, TNMAC actively uses IMSMA

database as a main tool for data entry and reporting. Since 2018 we started Implementation of IMSMA core with GICHD support. This system is actively used to support all Mine Action activities, including land release, mine risk education and victim assistance data through review and validation by relevant staff. All reports in Tajikistan Mine Action Program go through the online reporting system connected to the database portal.