

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia (Chair), Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom)

Intersessional Meetings 18 – 20 June 2024

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CAMBODIA

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

1. Cambodia reported that in 2023 it released 3,570 mined areas measuring 328,014,642 square metres, including 31,446,520 square metres cancelled, 129,039,302 square metres reduced and 167,528,820 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 14,409 anti-personnel mines and 17,133 items of explosive ordnance.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Cambodia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2023 updated work plan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was more than that projected in Cambodia's 2023 updated workplan. The Committee welcomed Cambodia providing information on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and disaggregated by type of contamination (Action #8, Action #22).

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

3. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Cambodia reported a remaining challenge of 4,330 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 435,064,084 square metres located in 10 Provinces (Action #22).
4. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by SHAs and 'confirmed hazardous areas' (CHA) and their relative size, as well as by type of contamination. The Committee recalled that Cambodia indicated in 2020 that, "Confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) are not stored in the national database but in the databases of its implementing partners". The Committee noted that Cambodia had not provided information on its implementation in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #22)
5. The 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 recalled that Cambodia had reported completion of its baseline survey in December 2020 that resulted in the identification of 8,923 areas affected by anti-personnel mines measuring 801 square kilometres and that this data is stored in their national IMSMA database and updated to support prioritisation and effective

¹ "Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

clearance. The Committee observed that while the baseline survey forms part of Cambodia's efforts to establish an evidence-based, accurate baseline of contamination, Cambodia was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Cambodia on these efforts. (Action #18)

6. The OAP requests States to report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women girls, boys and men. The Committee observed that Cambodia had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #18)

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

7. The Committee recalled that Cambodia's 2019 extension request contained a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey (Action #2, Action #19). The Committee observed that Cambodia in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 indicated that it will draft a new National Mine Action Strategy 2026-2030 in 2024. The Committee welcomes the update from Cambodia and welcome further information on the proposed timeline for development and process of approval of the new strategy (Action #2, Action #19).
8. The Committee observed that Cambodia in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 provided adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including information on the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established (Action #20). In this regard, Cambodia projects to address a total of 515,000,000 square metres in the period 2024-2025, including 313,753,769 square metres in 2024 and 201,246,231 square metres in 2025. Cambodia indicated that the projected 515,000,000 square meters included 435,064,084 square meters already registered on the national database and 79,935,9163 square meters projected to be discovered during the same period. Cambodia also indicated that it would deploy survey teams with the aim of releasing areas through non-technical survey. Cambodia further indicated that an Executive Order issued by The Office of The Council of Ministers, dated 13 March 2024, ordered the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) to complete a survey of minefields along the Cambodia-Thailand border under the leadership of the Cambodian Mine Action Authority and in close cooperation with the Royal Cambodian Army, in order to survey locations that were not surveyed during the first phase of the baseline survey from 2009 to 2010 due to inaccessibility, remoteness, and restrictions. Cambodia further noted that many accidents occurred outside the existing minefield polygons. The Committee welcomes the update from Cambodia and encourages Cambodia to provide further information on the timeline for the survey (Action #20).
9. Cambodia, in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 indicated an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of US \$60 million for the period 2024-2025. (Action #1).
10. Cambodia in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 indicated the integration of Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans, including the role of mine action in contributing to 13 Sustainable Development Goals and at least 48 of their targets. Cambodia also reported that the mine action sector has contributed to the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships (Action #1, Action #6).
11. 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. The Committee noted that Cambodia had not provided information on its implementation in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #3).

12. Cambodia reported on its efforts to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas following completion, including drafting of a new National Mine Action Strategy that will aim to provide a roadmap for Cambodia to address other contamination, and establish sustainable national capacity to address residual threats. The Committee welcomes the update from Cambodia and encourages Cambodia to provide further information on the proposed timeline for development and process of approval of the new strategy. (Action #26).

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

13. The Committee observed that Cambodia in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 highlighted the support from all clearance operators and partners in the revision of the Cambodian Mine Action Standards on Baseline Survey to ensure that newly identified mine-contaminated areas are accepted/recorded based on evidence (Action #5).

14. The OAP requests States to establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation. The Committee noted that Cambodia had not provided information on its implementation in this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #9).

15. Cambodia reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including the exchange of best practices and lesson learned with other countries, programs, partners and relevant stakeholders. (Action #27).

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

16. In considering Cambodia's 2019 extension request, the Fourth Review Conference requested Cambodia to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Cambodia on:

- Annual progress and results of baseline survey activities, progress on implementation in a manner consistent with IMAS, efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as on resources made available to support implementation efforts, and updates regarding the structure of Cambodia's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion;
- The progress and results of baseline survey in the remaining 73 districts, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS and their impact on annual targets as given in Cambodia's work plan and;
- Progress made in implementation of the planned agreement between the Cambodia and Thailand General Border Committee regarding plans to address anti-personnel contamination in border areas.

17. The Committee would welcome updated information from Cambodia on the following decisions of the Fourth Review Conference:

- Updates regarding the deployment of 2,000 deminers by the Cambodian Armed Forces, with respect to gender balance in survey and clearance teams, timeline for recruitment, training and deployment.

18. The Committee recalled that in considering Cambodia's 2019 extension request, the Fourth Review Conference requested Cambodia to submit to the States Parties, by 15 August 2022 and 30 April 2024, updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget. The Committee recalled that Cambodia which was due to submit an updated work plan by 15 August 2022, wrote to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, c/o the ISU, on 29 August 2022 indicating that the submission of its work plan would be delayed until 28 February 2023 noting that the "request is made based on the momentous results which are anticipated for the remaining six months of 2022, which will drastically change the work plan for the remaining period and will result in the need to submit an additional, revised work plan in the near future." In this regard, the Committee observed that Cambodia had acted on the decisions of the Fourth Review Conference by submitting an updated work plan on 1 May 2023 and 30 April 2024.

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

20. Cambodia reported on its efforts to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, including mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R), the methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).

21. Cambodia reported on its efforts to integrate MRE/R into wider efforts including into ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities and coordination with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport for inclusion of MRE/R in the school curriculum, and that additional risk education was conducted in 60 schools in 7 Provinces (Action #28).

22. Cambodia reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk, including the development of prioritised villages for annual MRE/R efforts developed in consultation with operators (Action #29).

23. Cambodia reported on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk, including campaigns in areas where recent accidents were recorded and areas with highest contamination in Battambang, Pursat and Preah Vihear and Oddor Meanchey provinces (Action #30).

24. Cambodia reported on its efforts to build sustainable national capacities including within the Police, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

25. The Committee observed that Cambodia in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 indicated the following challenges may affect the sector's ability to achieve the targets of this updated work plan (Action #8),

- a. Lack of national and international financial resources
- b. The size of mined areas identified following survey on the border with Thailand
- c. Access to un-demarcated areas along the border

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

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#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						The Committee would welcome additional information from Cambodia on its efforts to ensure 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 (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 while the baseline survey forms part of Cambodia's efforts to establish an evidence-based, accurate baseline of contamination, Cambodia was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Cambodia on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						The Committee would welcome information on Cambodia's efforts to establish 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						The Committee would welcome information on Cambodia's efforts to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by type of contamination.
	% 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						
MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#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						
#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		
-----	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--