

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 THAILAND

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

1. Thailand reported that in 2023 it addressed 53 mined areas measuring 8,763,087 square metres, including 392,702 square metres cancelled, 7,822,303 square metres reduced and 548,082 square metres cleared, resulting in the destruction of 15,085 anti-personnel mines and 341 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. Thailand also reported it had identified a previously unknown mined area of 850,122 square metres in Si Sa Ket Province.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2023 extension request. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Thailand's 2022 extension request. The Committee welcomed Thailand providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology, employing 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 clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Thailand reported a remaining challenge of 96 mined areas measuring 21,785,550 square metres located in 6 Provinces, including 85 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) measuring 13,384,835 square metres and 11 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) measuring 8,400,715 square metres. (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. 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 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. (Action #18)
7. 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

¹ "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.

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 this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #18)

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 for the period November 2023 – October 2024 of 7,308,874 square metres, including 2,134,646 square metres of SHA and 5,174,228 square metres of CHA. (Action #20)
10. Thailand reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation of THB 250,639,744, estimated US\$ 6,772,216. 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 participating in a regional training course on "Linking Mine Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda" co-organized by ASEAN Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. (Action #1, Action #6)
12. Thailand reported on its efforts 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 programme, including its efforts through the ARMAC to prioritise and strengthen gender equality and empowerment, and strengthening institutional and staff capacities in the region through their on-going projects, and that Thailand aims to work towards turning these two documents into concrete actions through the implementation of pilot projects between interested ASEAN Member States. (Action #3)
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 all Thai Mine Action Centre (TMAC) field personnel continue to retain NTS capacity, meaning that they all can perform all tasks which are needed in the field, namely, NTS, TS, and Clearance. (Action #26)

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

14. Thailand reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards (NMAS) up to date highlighting that in 2023 it will revise its NMAS and Standard Operating Procedures to be in line with IMAS to allow a safer and more efficient operation for technical survey. Thailand also reported that revision of NMAS is currently underway and expected to be officially endorsed in 2025. (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, while also allowing 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, including, use of drone technology to conduct survey and aid operational planning, building capacity of existing personnel on non-technical / technical survey to ensure field personnel can perform all tasks needed in the field. (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 Committee observed that Thailand had acted on the decisions of the 20MSP by submitting an updated work plan to the to the Fifth Review Conference.

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

19. 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, as well as challenges faced and results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. (Action #32)
20. 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)
21. 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)
22. 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 this regard and would welcome further information. (Action #30)
23. Thailand reported on its efforts to build national capacities, highlighting the role of HMAU and TMAC as the responsible agency to conduct MRE activities. (Action #31)

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

24. The Committee observed that Thailand provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including;
 - Challenges with access to areas with high level of contamination;
 - Challenging geographical landscape;
 - Issues concerning accessing the areas along the border with Cambodia;
 - Conditions and locations of mines buried under the ground have been altered through time, meaning additional time and resources are required for 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)
#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						

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						
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						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.
#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						

