

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen first of all, using this opportunity, I would like to thank the ISU for their contribution in organizing this event.

Today I would like to present the key points for Tajikistan achievements towards reaching its 2025 goal under Article 5 of the Convention.

Along with other countries Tajikistan was as well affected by the global pandemic that had serious impact on all spheres of life and activities in Tajikistan, but nevertheless, we are doing our best to continue de-mining operations along with MRE and VA activities to fulfil our obligations under Article 5.

During the recent years, the Tajikistan Mine Action Program has performed well and we are proud of the progress we made.

Since the very beginning up to the end of 2020 our program has addressed more than 27.1 million square meters of contamination with both national and international support. Up to the date we found and destroyed almost 106 thousand landmines and unexploded ordnance (from 106, there are 79 thousand antipersonnel mines).

The program both met and exceeded its originally proposed clearance target by 126%, and was able to declare 7 contaminated districts mine free.

In 2021, the program has addressed more than 225,887 square meters of contamination with both national and international support. Up to the date we found and destroyed almost 3 thousand landmines and unexploded ordnance.

In 2020, Tajikistan Efficiency has been improved by enhancement of the national humanitarian capacity by the establishment of new TS /NTS and Demining Teams, use of MDM, that resulted in increasing our annual operational results. This was achieved with significant support of US DoS PMWRA. Also, it is worth to mention that the NMAS and SOPs of the implementing partners were updated with new methodologies that had a positive effect on the operational results.

In addition, I would like to note that there are numbers of circumstances that could impede the land release operations, like: challenging mountainous terrain to conduct mine clearance operations; security situation in the north of Afghanistan; short operational season; extreme weather conditions; inaccessibility of many areas for machines and dogs.

What concerns Mine risk education, I would like to say that with support from the international donors and Government of Tajikistan, TNMAC continues conducting

regional Trainings of Trainers (ToTs) with schoolteachers in four regions of the country (Central region, Sughd region, Khatlon region and GBAO) to highlight MRE issues and disseminate training materials for schools. Thus, the trained schoolteachers further transfer their MRE knowledge to their schools and community members of the settlements of hazard areas where they live.

When new previously unknown mined areas are discovered, NTS/TS teams conduct MRE sessions with local population of these areas and install warning signs to prevent people from mine accidents.

Around half million of local population are living in mine-affected areas. Zones of risks are usually in hills and mountains where most villages are located.

Since 1992 the total number of casualties resulting from accidents with mines and explosive remnants of war is 884 landmine/ERW victims (534 survivors, 350 fatalities). In 2021 - 2 casualties were registered: 1 shepherd (man) was injured and other man was killed in the result of ERW explosion. Approx. 27% of mine survivors were children at the time of their accidents.

The most women and children go close to hazardous areas where they collect firewood and wild fruits, grazing livestock. That is why approx. 27% from total victims are children. Due to the unconventional shape of some mines and sub-munitions it can be attractive to younger children, presenting an added layer of risk to civilian communities living near contaminated areas. All defined locations of the accident were close to villages.

In 2020, Tajikistan Mine Action Programme continued its activities in line with the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On humanitarian mine action” and the National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2017-2020 and the Action Plan for the Strategy implementation.

By the end of 2020, the National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2030 was developed. In accordance with Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On humanitarian mine action” the National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2030 and the Action Plan for the Strategy implementation were approved by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. Thus, starting from 2021, the activities are being implemented in accordance with the new Strategy and Action Plan.

In 2020, the updated Land release Work plan for 2021-2025 was developed. This plan contains the detailed information on demining actors, as well as financial calculations to meet Tajikistan's obligations in front of the Ottawa Convention

We still have many challenges ahead, but we are confident that if we work together more effectively and efficiently and if we apply the lessons that we have learned from our past experience, we will then be able to meet our new completion target.

We are in full commitment to perform the planned activity with the purpose to meet the obligations are taken and make the life of our people safe!

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank our current donors , US DoS, OSCE Norway and our partners GICHD, ISU, ICRC for their great contribution to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme. Also, we present our highest gratitude and appreciation to the international agencies (NPA and FSD) that have been involved in the implementation of mine action program in Tajikistan

Thank you for your attention