

The speech of the Director of Tajikistan Mine Action Centre Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, using the opportunity, I would like to thank the organizers for organizing of the intersessional meetings would like to congratulate Juan Carlos Ruan with his new appointment as a Director of ISU. His continuous support to Tajikistan is highly appreciated!

Due to security related issues in 2015 less operational teams are deployed for land release activities in Tajik-Afghan border allowed us to deploy only 9 manual clearance teams and two non-technical survey teams.

During the last five years, TMAP has made significant progress in land release activities. Efficiency was improved by introducing new assets and methodologies and by updating the NMAS and the SOPs of the operators accordingly.

In 2015, totally 1.77 km² of the land were released through mine clearance and technical survey operations. During Land release operations there were found and destroyed 567 AP mines, 1,183 ERW, including 84 cluster bomb remnants, 4.5 kg explosive charges and 15,033 small arms cartridges. 60 hazard areas released and handed over to Local Authorities for safe use. One contaminated district were released from impact of antipersonnel mine hazard.

As of December 2015 about 10.3 km² of land still remains mine contaminated.

In addition to this there are 2,3 km² of Battle areas which covering 2.3 km²

During previous operational seasons Tajikistan faced this challenges:

Inaccessible areas:

Non-executable tasked areas:

Unsurveyed minefield records:

Reliability of surveyed Minefield Records

Only manual demining operations

Security situation in Tajik-Afghan border

As was mentioned all areas accessible for MDDs and machines almost completed and therefore only manual demining operations will require for further operations, speed of which is slow and productivity is less.

We need also advisory support and exchange experience on addressing inaccessible areas and non-executable tasks as well as on all other challenges faced.

There is a need to build and strengthening of national capacity to address residual risk after 2020.

To address mentioned challenges and remaining contamination Tajikistan developed an Article 5 completion plan for 2016-2020 and will make all efforts to realize the plan.

We would like to thank our development partners for their great contributions and we hope that our cooperation in mine action will be continued.

There is still a lot of work to do for Tajikistan to fulfill its obligations. Tajikistan still needs international assistance in mine action program implementation in the coming future and invites the world community to continue its precious assistance for this important issue.

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank all our donors for their great contribution to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme. Also we present our highest gratitude and appreciation to the international agencies that have been involved in implementation of mine action program in Tajikistan.

Thank you for your attention!