

**Statement by the Thai Delegation**  
**At the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings**  
**19 May 2016**  
**Agenda Item 3: Article 5 Implementation (Mine Clearance)**

Madam Chairperson,

The Thai Delegation would like to thank you and all members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for your observations and recommendations and will take them into consideration as we continue to work to fulfill our obligation under Article 5 of the Convention.

Madam Chairperson,

As a mine-affected country, Thailand is well aware of the dangers of anti-personnel mines, as well as its impact on socio-economic development and widening inequality gap in society, particularly in the most remote areas of the country. For these reasons, Thailand holds mine action as an urgent and important element of our national efforts to fulfill our international obligation and to realise the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, especially Goal 16.

Madam Chairperson,

Since Thailand became a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, we have worked hard to clear mine-contaminated lands in almost all parts of our country. In 2015, the Thailand Mine Action Centre or TMAC was able to declare mine clearance completed in 3 provinces out of 17 provinces. TMAC intends to declare 7 more provinces as mine-free area this year, thus reducing the number of mine-contaminated areas in Thailand to the last 7 provinces. These 14 provinces account for approximately 450 million square metres of remaining suspected hazardous areas (SHA) in the country.

The remaining SHAs can be categorized into two types. The first category of SHAs, without border demarcation issues, stands at approximately 355 million square metres. This category is to be released through the normal process. Higher priority will be given to areas in proximity of civilian activities and those designated to be developed as special economic zones. Thailand aims to release all contaminated areas under this category by the committed timeline of 2018.

The second SHAs category of mine-contaminated lands in areas with border demarcation issues now stands at 95 million square metres. Clearance of areas under this category still faces challenges from the unresolved border demarcation issues. As a result, Thailand is working closely with neighbouring countries to explore how best to address this challenge, including through joint-clearance. This is essential as we need to restore the local livelihood of our people as soon as possible. This will be possible only when mine clearance has been completed. In this regard, TMAC has already engaged in a discussion with our Cambodian counterpart on the possibility of joint operations thereof.

Madam Chairperson,

In improving mine clearance capacity and techniques, Thailand is currently working with the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to conduct a pilot re-survey project in order to re-determine with precision the location and size of mine-contaminated areas in Thailand. Villagers, along with village heads and local authorities are invited to assist in the non-technical survey by sharing local knowledge on the ground and their personal experiences to identify the presence or non-presence of anti-personnel mines in mine suspected areas. We hope that this new re-survey technique will significantly reduce the size of suspected mine contaminated areas in the country. It will therefore have a positive implication on our mine clearance efforts.

Madam Chairperson,

On a final note, the Thai Delegation wishes to thank in particular the Implementation Support Unit, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, and the Norwegian People's Aid for their continued support for our mine clearance efforts. Let me conclude by reiterating Thailand's strong determination to achieve the goal of becoming a mine-free country as much as possible by our committed timeline.

Thank you.

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