

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CAMBODIA

I. Progress in implementation

1. Cambodia reported that in 2018, 874 areas were released in 2018 measuring 65,775,501 square metres, including 22,644,386 square metres cancelled, 6,469,355 square metres reduced, and 36,661,760 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 10,031 anti-personnel mines and 4.192 other explosive items. Cambodia further reported that in 2018 the baseline survey was ongoing in 44 districts and had identified 542 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 37,940,934 square metres.
2. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties (17MSP) in that progress projected by Cambodia included addressing an annual milestone of 111.8 square kilometres per year, the Committee noted that progress in 2018 did not reach the projected outputs for land release.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Cambodia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that previously provided and welcomed Cambodia employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee noted that Cambodia provided clarity on its remaining challenge. Cambodia reported 9,804 SHAs remaining measuring 890,437,236 square metres.
5. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented to the 17MSP in which the Committee noted that, with survey activities ongoing, annual updates on the impact of baseline survey efforts on annual projections and Cambodia's Article 5 deadline would be welcome.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. The Committee noted that Cambodia on 27 March 2019 Cambodia submitted a request for extension of its Article 5 implementation challenge for consideration by the Fourth Review Conference¹. The Committee further noted that the request included a work plan for the period of the extension request. The Committee observed that the work plan projects to release 890,437,236 square metres of area known or suspected to be contaminated with landmines, with annual milestones addressing, 84,250,000 square metres in 2019, and 110.6 square kilometres annually for the period 2020-2021.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

¹ Cambodia's request was submitted 27 March 2019 for consideration at the Fourth Review Conference. The Committee is currently undertaking an analysis of Cambodia's request in line with the decisions of the 7MSP, and 12MSP.

7. Cambodia reported that data information on confirmed hazardous areas are currently maintained by each operator. The Committee welcomes further clarification from Cambodia on the timeline and progress of ensuring information management systems to ensure that data relevant to its Article 5 implementation obligation are in place.

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

8. The Committee recalled that the 2009 Second Review Conference had requested Cambodia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee observed that Cambodia had acted upon the commitments made in its extension request.

VI. Mine risk reduction

9. Cambodia 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 National Mine Awareness Day celebrated on 24 February. Cambodia also reported that the main strategy of MRE service delivery is information dissemination incorporating specific risk behaviours into the messages. Cambodia reported that this approach has been broadened into the school curriculum.
10. The Committee noted that Cambodia provided beneficiary figures for each operator conducting MRE activities, and that for the majority of organisations, figures were disaggregated by sex and age. The Committee noted with concern 58 persons reported to be injured and killed from mines and ERW, the Committee welcomes further information from Cambodia on the role of risk education in response to accidents and efforts to reduce victims in high risk population groups and locations.