

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Lt. Gen. Sittipol Nimnuan
Director General of the Thailand Mine Action Center
Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Vienna, Austria | 19 December 2017

Agenda 11(b): Clearing mined areas

Mr. President,

Since joining the Convention in 1997, the Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC) with support from domestic and international partners and utilizing a community-centered approach for Land Release, has released over 80% of the total original suspected hazardous area (SHA) of 2,557 sq. km. In 2016, Chiang Rai and Nan, two affected provinces in northern Thailand were declared mine-free. Next year, Yala, Uttaradit, and Tak provinces will join the mine-free category.

This year, we took an important step in re-establishing the National Committee for Mine Action, chaired by H.E. the Prime Minister. The high level Committee will help guide synchronized mine action implementation, harness agency wide resources, and generate concerted effort, paving way for more efficient demining work, especially in the border areas.

Mr. President,

To be able to continue our good work, on 30 March 2017, Thailand submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of the 1 November 2018 deadline for 5 years, until 31 October 2023. We therefore seek the meeting's kind support towards our request to enable us to fulfill our obligations.

The analysis of the Committee on our extension request noted that Thailand was behind its clearance schedule. We wish to report to the meeting that this is not the case. Due to our attentive quality control procedures, mine-free areas are only added after QC is done with total confidence.

For 2017, up until 30 September, we have progressed as initially planned, returning 30.9 sq.km. to our people. By the end of this year, we are confident that we will be able to release 34.7 sq.km. In 2018, 29 sq.km. will be released, leaving 358.8 for the remaining 5 years of the requested extension.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate that Thailand remains fully committed to a world free of mines. We will continue to participate in all relevant meetings of the Convention, and keep all States Parties informed of our progress through our annual Article 7 Transparency Report.

Thank you.

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