



**The Republic of Tajikistan**



**6th Meeting of the  
States Parties**  
Zagreb, Croatia  
28.11 – 02.12.2005.



## **Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

### **Mine Clearance**

Distinguished Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thanks to Donors' support, we continued mine clearance activities during the post -Nairobi Summit period.

First of all, it is necessary to state that in 2005 we managed to establish 2 additional mine clearance teams (total 4 teams) and 1 survey team (also total 4 teams). But due to the late funding, these teams started mine clearance activities only at the beginning of September and the 4th Survey team was not deployed because of the lack of funding.

I would like also to mention that in order to speed up the process of mine clearance, increase productivity and cost efficiency within the national programme, we had intended to establish 4 mine detecting dog (MDD) teams. However, we could not get financial support in order to implement this project. We are concerned about this situation as there is a threat to fulfil our obligation in accordance to Article 5 of Ottawa Convention - to complete mine clearance of the mined areas by 1 April, 2010; i.e 4 years left for Tajikistan. However, recently we were able to achieve some progress in this direction. OSCE agreed to support construction of the Detecting Dogs Kennels (Area) by the end of the year. In addition, an Agreement was signed between TMAC and Afghan Mine Detecting Dogs Centre in Kabul on November 11, 2005. In accordance with this Agreement, 12 handlers and 12 detecting dogs will be trained before the new demining season of 2006 by our Afghan colleagues. This Project will be supported by UNDP. We consider that implementation of this issue will demonstrate real regional cooperation towards the implementation of Ottawa Convention.

Some of the mined areas in Tajikistan are suitable for mechanical mine clearance and to assist in speeding up the process of mine clearance, we need mechanical mine clearance equipment and support in these areas.

The following items were found and destroyed during the working season in 2005:

Destroyed : 889 mines (AP)  
1 mine (AT)

## 448 UXOs

More than 110,000 sq. metres of ground were cleared.

Within the OSCE Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Project, more than 8,5 tons of ammunition were destroyed during last two months in Tajikistan.

During this reporting period, GMAA of the western part of the country along the Tajik-Uzbek and the southern part of the country along the Tajik-Afghan borders was completed. 297 communities were surveyed and 25 mined areas identified.

I would like to draw your attention to the Tajik-Uzbek mined border. The situation along the Tajik-Uzbek border remains tense and mine incidents continue to occur among local population. However, a statement from the Uzbek authorities claims that there is some progress in this direction. On 25 October, 2005, during a meeting of the Council of Commanders of CIS Border Forces in Dushanbe, Lt. Col. Rashid Khabiev, Deputy Commander of the Uzbek Border Forces stated that Uzbekistan has commenced mine clearance on the Tajik-Uzbek border and approx. 20 per cent of the territory is already cleared. Although the Tajik authorities have not received any official notification of these activities, we welcome Uzbek efforts to eliminate this dangerous threat from our common state border and consider this as an important step in strengthening regional security. We hope that in the sake of transparency in international and regional cooperation in this area, dialogue among the interested sides may commence.

### **MRE**

Implementation of the MRE program continues in Tajikistan. Since 2001 this program has been undertaken by RCST volunteers supported by ICRC and by UNDP (since 2005). UNICEF has also joined the implementation of MRE Program in January 2005 and conducts their activities in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, mainly in 20 schools within 4 Central Area districts. MRE is now being implemented in 14 mine affected districts (6 districts in the north-west, 7 districts in the Central Area and 1 district in the western part of the country).

In order to strengthen the program, currently a Hazard Warning Sign Project is being implemented. More than 2000 warning signs have been placed, close to hazardous areas in the north-western area of our border with Uzbekistan. Additional placement of 800 such signs is going on in the south, west and the central areas of the country. The Hazard Warning Sign Project was supported by the USA (\$40,000), Government of Japan (\$30,000) and UNDP (\$50,000).

This year RCST, supported by ICRC, implemented a Safe Playgrounds Project, to provide children with areas for play and sports. The result of this project is 8 playgrounds in the most mine affected areas of the Asht, Konibodom, Isfara and Panjakent districts of Sogd region.

I would like to express my gratitude to all organizations that assisted us in maintaining and strengthening our mine clearance and MRE programs.

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