

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CAMBODIA

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Austria, Canada, Norway, Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings 30 June -2 July 2020

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #22, #8)

1. Cambodia reported that in 2019, a total of 755 mined areas were released measuring 55,371,791 square metres, including 26,924,403 square metres cancelled, 7,510,682 square metres reduced, and 20,936,706 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 4,111 anti-personnel mines and 4,354 other explosive items. Cambodia indicated that during the reporting period the baseline survey identified 117 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHAs) measuring 7,216,866 square meters in 11 Provinces and 25 districts. The Committee welcomes updated information on the results of the baseline survey.
2. The Committee observed that progress made is below the estimated amount of areas projected by Cambodia's in its 2019 request for extension. The Committee would welcome information from Cambodia on the challenges in meeting its projected milestones.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Cambodia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with previous reported information and welcomed Cambodia providing disaggregated information in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Guide to Reporting (Action #22, Action #8).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

4. The Committee observed that Cambodia provided clarity on its remaining challenge (Action #18). Cambodia reported a total of 9,539 SHAs remaining to be addressed measuring 817,087,387 square meters in 24 Provinces and 120 Districts of the country. Cambodia indicated that, "Confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) are not stored in the national database but in the database of its implementing partners. The Committee noted the importance of States Parties reporting in a disaggregated manner in accordance with IMAS and would welcome updated information on efforts to ensure that Cambodia is able to report in this manner (Action #22).
5. The Committee observed that, with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Cambodia will be further clarified following the baseline survey at which time Cambodia will be able to present more precise information on the remaining challenge. The Committee welcomes updated information on the result of these efforts.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #19, #20, #26)

6. The Committee observed that Cambodia's extension request submitted in 2019 contained a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey which projects the release of 84.2 million square meters in 2019, 110.6 million square meters annually for the period 2020-2021 and 146.5 million square meters for the period of 2002-2025 (Action #2, Action #19). Cambodia reported having a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period (2018-2025) (Action #2). The Committee would welcome updated adjusted milestones based on new evidence, such as the

results of survey efforts, including information on the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established.

7. The Committee noted that Cambodia's 2019 extension request included reference to the Cambodia specific sustainable development goal #18 on mines/ERW. The Committee welcomes Cambodia's efforts in this regard and would welcome annual updates on efforts made by Cambodia towards integrating Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans (Action #1).
8. The Committee observed that in 2019 the Government of Cambodia allocated an annual financial commitment towards implementation of US \$250,000. The Committee further noted that Cambodia had reported on financial contributions from its implementing partners and donors during the reporting period (Action #1).
9. The Committee observed that Cambodia's national strategy includes a specific goal #8 to, 'Ensure mine action activities are supported by enhanced quality management system, effective information management, and are gender and environment protection sensitive on gender'. The Committee further noted that the goal is supported by the Cambodian Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan (GMAP 2018-2022). The Committee welcomes Cambodia's efforts in this regard and welcomes further information on how Cambodia ensures consideration for gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in the development of its work plans as well as in ongoing work to achieve completion of its obligations under Article 5 (Action #3).
10. The Committee further noted that Goal #7 of Cambodia's national strategy addressed efforts to, 'Establish a sustainable national capacity to address the residual threats after 2025'. The Committee welcomes updated information on Cambodia's efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas that may be discovered following Cambodia declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations (Action #26).

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

11. In its request for extension submitted in 2019, Cambodia reported that it planned to organise an annual meeting to address land release methods as stated in Cambodian Mine Action Standards to strengthen their application and to ensure a consistent approach is taken by all operators. The Committee would welcome further information from Cambodia regarding its efforts to provide the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance and in particular its efforts to ensure that its National Mine Action Standards reflect the latest methodologies in line with (IMAS) (Action #5).
12. The Committee noted that Cambodia's 2019 extension request includes reference to the maintenance and improvement of information management capacities. The Committee welcomes Cambodia's efforts in this regard and would welcome further information on efforts made by Cambodia to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system (Action #9).
13. The Committee noted that Cambodia reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations and welcomes further information from Cambodia in this regard (Action #27).

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

14. In considering Cambodia's request for information, the Fourth Review Conference requested Cambodia to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Cambodia on the progress and results of the baseline survey, progress on

implementation in a manner consistent with IMAS, efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines through mine risk education and reduction efforts and well as on resources made available to support implementation efforts.

15. The Committee would welcome updated information from Cambodia on the following decisions of the Fourth Review Conference:

- Progress made in implementation of the planned agreement between the Cambodia and Thailand General Border Committee regarding plans to address anti-personnel contamination in border areas;
- Updates regarding the deployment of 2,000 deminers by the Cambodian Armed Forces, with respect to gender balance in survey and clearance teams, timeline for recruitment, training and deployment;
- Updates regarding the structure of Cambodia's mine action program, including existing and new organizational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

VI. Mine risk Education and Reduction (OAS Actions #28 - #32)

16. 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 consistent messaging, efforts to raise awareness, and monitoring mine risk education (MRE) activities to ensure that they are in line with Cambodia's national mine action strategy (Action #32).

17. Cambodia reported that the approach has broadened to integrate MRE messages into school curriculums and that, through Community Liaison and Community Based Mine Risk Education where MRE staff live and work also provides more detailed, local knowledge and has strengthened linkages with clearance operations and Mine Action Planning Units. Cambodia highlighted the different partners that support MRE activities in Cambodia including UNICEF, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, the National Police, the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, the Cambodian Red Cross, the National Centre for Peace Keeping Force Mine and ERW Clearance, the Cambodian Mine Victim Information System, the Halo Trust, MAG, the Spirit of Soccer and Cambodia Self Help Demining (Action #28, Action #31).

18. Cambodia reported that it ensures that MRE campaigns targets high risk groups and high-risk areas with a focus on risk avoidance. Cambodia reported that the main strategy is information disseminating, targeting a broad target population with some specify risk behaviours incorporated into the messages (Action #30).

19. The Committee noted that Cambodia's extension request includes reference to (MRE) as an important component in Cambodia's National Mine Action Strategy. The Committee further noted that the MRE strategy includes the integration of MRE into wider efforts in order to provide context specific MRE (Action #29). In this regard, the Committee would welcome further information from Cambodia on its efforts to ensure mine risk education and reduction programmes are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account (Action #29).