

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium (Chair), France, Iraq, and Sri Lanka)

Intersessional Meetings 20 – 22 June 2022

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CAMBODIA

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

1. Cambodia reported that in 2021 it released 901 hazardous areas measuring 78,360,293 square metres, including 25,602,965 square metres cancelled, 8,935,521 square metres reduced and 43,725,673 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 6,087 anti-personnel mines and 7,557 items of explosive ordnance. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Cambodia's 2019 extension request.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Cambodia on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2019 extension request. The Committee welcomed Cambodia providing disaggregated information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (Action #8, Action #22).

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

3. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Cambodia reported a remaining challenge of 8,287 suspected hazardous areas measuring 715,901,899 square metres located in 23 Provinces (Action #22).
4. Action #22 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by type of contamination. The Committee recalled that while Cambodia had indicated in 2020 that, "Confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) are not stored in the national database but in the database of its implementing partners". The Committee observed that Cambodia had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and would welcome information in this regard (Action #22).
5. Action #18 of the OAP requests States that have not yet done so to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. The Committee observed that Cambodia had reported completion of its baseline survey in December 2020 that resulted in the identification of 8,923 areas affected by anti-personnel mines measuring 801 square kilometres

¹ "Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

and that this data is stored in an IMSMA database and updated to support prioritisation and effective clearance. The Committee further observed that while the baseline line survey forms part of Cambodia's efforts to establish an evidence-based, accurate baseline of contamination. The Committee observed that Cambodia was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas (Action #18).

6. Cambodia's reported on its efforts to establish its baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men, indicating that the National Mine Action Strategy (2018-2025) was developed in close consultation with mine action operators, mine action partners, relevant government ministries, provincial mine action committee's (PMAC) and mine action planning units (MAPU) who were presenting the affected communities and opinions from the development partners and that were taken into consideration to ensure meaningful participatory process and practicality of the contents (Action #18).

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

7. Cambodia reported having a National Mine Action Strategy in place for the period of 2018-2025 (Action #2), including a 3-year implementation plan for the period of 2021-2023. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey which projects the release of 109.6 million square meters annually for the period 2022-2025 (Action #19).
8. Action #20 of the OAP requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones. The Committee observed that while Cambodia reported having in place a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey, Cambodia had not provided information its Article 7 Report on updated adjusted milestones based on new evidence including information on the number of areas and the amount of mined areas to be addressed annually and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #20).
9. Cambodia reported an annual national financial commitment towards implementation of US \$250,000. Cambodia also reported on relevant Government plans, policies and legal frameworks for mine action activities (Action #1).
10. Cambodia reported on its efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant (Action #6).
11. Cambodia's reported that its national strategy was developed in close consultation with mine action operators, mine action partners, relevant government ministries, provincial mine action committee's (PMAC) and mine action planning units (MAPU) who were presenting the affected communities and opinions from the development partners and that were taken into consideration to ensure meaningful participatory process and practicality of the contents (Action #3).
12. Action #26 of the OAP requests States to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion. In addressing these areas, they will consider the commitments made at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties as contained in the paper «Proposed rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed». The Committee recalled that, while Cambodia reported in 2020 that it will review the legal, institutional, and operational framework, strategy and capacity needs to address residual threats after the completion of Article 5 obligations, Cambodia

had not provided updated information on its efforts and would welcome further information in this regard (Action #26).

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

13. Cambodia reported on its efforts to ensure that its National Mine Action Standards reflect the latest methodologies in line with IMAS including that the Cambodian Mine Action Standards (CMAS) are based on IMAS, and are reviewed and updated based on the changes in the IMAS, field experience, and best practice to ensure safe, effective, and efficient mine action implementation. Cambodia further reported that the review and development of CMAS included representatives from accredited operators. Cambodia further reported that a meeting on CMAS was postponed in 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19 (Action #5).

14. Cambodia reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including the establishment of a database unit in 2020 and that data managed by the CMAA and is comprehensive and up to date. Cambodia further reported the upgrading to IMSMA Core as an online platform. Cambodia also reported the need for training and technical support to ensure that information management is nationally owned and managed (Action #9).

15. Cambodia reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey, including the engagement of 4 non-technical survey teams to re-survey existing baseline survey polygons in 3 targeted provinces, Battambang, Pailin, and Banteay Meanchey with the aim to be completed by December 2022 (Action #27).

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

16. In considering Cambodia's 2019 extension request, the Fourth Review Conference requested Cambodia to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Cambodia on:

- Annual progress and results of baseline survey activities, 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 as well as on resources made available to support implementation efforts, and updates regarding the structure of Cambodia's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion; and
- The progress and results of baseline survey in the remaining 73 districts, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS and their impact on annual targets as given in Cambodia's work plan.

17. 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; and
- 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.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)

18. Cambodia reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mined areas, including mine risk education and reduction programmes (MRE/R) the methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).
19. Cambodia reported that MRE/R are integrated into ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities and the school curriculum to Grade 8 (Action #28).
20. Action #29 of the OAP requests States to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk. To ensure if such programmes were developed on the basis of a needs assessment that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. Cambodia reported that risk education activities are largely implemented by national capacities under the coordination and facilitation of the national authority (CMAA), and that risk education operators have the capacity to adapt their messages and means of delivery to suit the evolving situation. Cambodia also reported that the Cambodian Mine Action Standard (CMAS) Chapter 21 on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) had been endorsed by CMAA and distributed to stakeholders. The Committee observed that Cambodia had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on Cambodia's efforts to ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, and that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #29).
21. Cambodia reported that MRE/R programmes target high risk groups and high-risk areas through the identification of priority villages based on casualty data, contamination data, population and in consultation with explosive ordnance risk education operators, with villages jointly identified by risk education operators under the coordination and facilitation of CMAA and that within these villages, CMAA is specifically targeting at-risk groups (Action #30).
22. Cambodia highlighted the different partners that support MRE activities in Cambodia (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

23. The Committee observed that Cambodia provided information on challenges in implementation including the technical challenge of upgrading information management system, the impact of COVID-19 restricting the face-to-face delivery of risk education, events, and that some risk education operators still unable to report through IMSMA, as well as decreasing financial support to risk education. Cambodia also reported the increasing use of heavy machines for agriculture in contaminated areas has increased risk of accidents.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Cambodia
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#2	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
#3	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#5	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						The Committee would welcome information on Cambodia's efforts to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones.
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						The Committee would welcome information on Cambodia's efforts to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by type of contamination.
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						
#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						

	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans							The Committee would welcome information on Cambodia's efforts to ensure that national strategies and work plans for completion make provisions for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion.
#26	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas							
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties							
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means							

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						
	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						
#29	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						The Committee would welcome information on Cambodia's efforts to ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment, and that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account and would welcome further information in this regard.
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered						

#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						
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