



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN
CONVENTION

SIEM REAP, 25-29 NOVEMBER 2024

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to express my gratitude on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia for the opportunity to provide an update on our Article 5 implementation progress.

Humanitarian mine action started in Cambodia, in 1992. As of September 2024, Cambodia's mine action has cumulatively cleared and released **3,168 square kilometers** of land contaminated by all forms of explosive ordnance, destroyed **1,185,589** anti-personnel mines, **26,440** anti-tank mines, and **3,126,412** explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions.

For this year, from January to September 2024, Cambodia released **144** square kilometers of land affected by all forms of explosive ordnance of which **83** square kilometers were affected by anti-personnel mines. In total **6,224** anti-personnel mines, **101** anti-tank mines, and **20,819** items of explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, were found and destroyed. Released land has been put back into productive use by the affected communities for resettlement, agriculture, infrastructure development, and other purposes. Unfortunately, the number of mine and ERW casualties has increased by **44 %** compared to the same period last year.

As of October 2024, Cambodia still has **1,658 square kilometers** of land contaminated by all forms of explosive ordnance, of which **393 square**

kilometers by anti-personnel mines. To address the remaining of **393** square kilometers anti-personnel mine, Cambodia will need **US\$ 101 million** to finish our job.

However, this does not include additional minefields to be discovered by a comprehensive survey being undertaken by a national operator in the provinces bordering Thailand. The national operators are now conducting the survey along the Cambodia-Thailand border because these areas were not fully surveyed before due to inaccessibility, remoteness, a lack of information and resources. It should be noted that approximately 40% of the accidents in these areas occur outside the minefields recorded in the national database. The survey is projected to be completed within the first quarter of 2025.

In addition to the remaining challenge, Cambodia is facing several major challenges, those including:

- a. Geographical Difficulties:** Minefields along the Cambodia-Thailand border are in extremely difficult geographical mountainous terrain and heavily forested areas. These areas are densely contaminated, requiring more time and resources for teams to access and clear.
- b. Large Suspected Areas:** There is a high possibility of discovering large areas containing anti-personnel mines resulting from the comprehensive survey along the Cambodia-Thailand border.
- c. Need for Stronger Cooperation:** Stronger cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand is needed to accelerate clearance of minefields along the border.
- d. Insufficient Funds:** There are insufficient funds for mine clearance.

Due to the magnitude of the remaining challenge, it has become evident that extending the deadline beyond 2025 for completing the clearance of known anti-personnel mines areas in Cambodia is necessary. We will work with all key stakeholders to ensure the participatory and inclusive process to prepare a realistic extension request for submission by **31 March 2025**.

Cambodia has initiated the development of a new National Mine Action Strategy.

Cambodia would like to reassure its commitment to the implementation of our obligations under the Convention, particularly in areas such as mine clearance, victim assistance, gender mainstreaming, and environment protection.

In this regard, we sincerely appeal to States Parties, and development partners to continue supporting Cambodia to achieve completion of its Article 5 and other obligations.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my profound gratitude and compliments to the Implementation Support Unit and all the development partners who have been supporting the mine action sector in Cambodia to date.

I thank you for your attention!