

**Statement of the Delegation of Thailand
By General Saksit Sangchanintra
Director General of Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC)
Agenda Item 8: Review of the operation and status of the Convention:
Clearing Mine Areas
27 November 2024, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

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Mr. President,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, please allow me to express my sincere appreciation to you and the members of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, as well as the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the continuous support rendered to all States Parties in their demining operations.

Thailand has always recognised both **immediate and long-term threats** of the continued existence and deployment of anti-personnel mines. Therefore, since becoming a State Party in 1999, **we have been working with our utmost efforts to fulfill our obligations, including the completion of mine clearance under Article 5** of the Convention.

To take stock of what Thailand has achieved so far since the last Review Conference in Oslo, I, General Saksit Sangchanintra, Director General of Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC), would like to **report on Thailand's progress in implementing the Convention during 2020-2024** as follows:

First, regarding survey and clearance of mined areas, **Thailand is currently under our third extension period** with a timeframe of 3 years, ending on 31 December 2026. From 2020-2024, Thailand has **successfully reduced mine hazardous areas by an approximate size of 205 sq.km.** To date, we have **cleared and returned more than 99 percent of safe land back to the people, with approximately 17 sq.km. left to be cleared** in six provinces along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Second, regarding stockpile destruction and retention of anti-personnel mines, Thailand has **fully completed our obligations under Article 4** of the Convention by destroying and disposing all of the retained anti-personnel mines since 2019. At present, there is **no anti-personnel mine under the possession of the Thai authority.**

Third, regarding mine victims assistance, although Thailand Mine Action Center is not the main agency responsible for victims assistance, we are **one of the primary agencies in providing initial assistance on the ground** to those affected by landmines. Here, we focus on **multi-agency approach** in assisting mine victims and ensuring that they, in particular persons with disabilities, are **smoothly reintegrated into the society and can fully enjoy their fundamental rights**.

Forth, regarding mine risk education, we recognise its importance as a **proactive and preventive measure in reducing the occurrence of new mine victims**. We have **conducted trainings** for operational units officers, community leaders and representatives of agencies in risk areas. We have also **provided mine risk education directly to the public**, reaching out to more than one hundred thousand people during the course of 2020-2024.

Fifth, Thailand places high importance on engaging with communities around the operation areas, especially in planning and evaluating previously contaminated land plots prior to their release. We also **promote a gender-balanced approach and ensure that gender considerations are taken into account** in our humanitarian demining operations.

Sixth, regarding international cooperation and assistance, **Thailand Mine Action Center is working closely with Thai and international partners**, namely, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the Humanitarian Demining Research and Development Program (HD R&D), Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (GWHF), and Thai Civilian Deminer Association (TDA). In this regard, we would like to express, as always, our sincere appreciation for their valuable contributions.

In addition, Thailand stands ready to share our experiences and best practices in humanitarian mine action operations with other State Parties, including through the framework of ASEAN Mine Action Center (ARMAC) to which Thailand has annually contributed 10,000 USD.

Mr. President,

Despite the above-mentioned progress and our unwavering efforts in mine clearance, Thailand still faces **operational constraints and complex challenges**.

The first arises from **uneven density** of contaminated areas. Most of the remaining areas are marked as **confirmed hazardous areas (CHA)**, resulting in the detection of large number of mines. In many areas, **landmines are scattered and uninformed**, making it more difficult in survey and clearance missions.

Difficulties in assessing the contaminated areas also pose challenges to our demining projects. The areas have **rough terrains and unfavourable environment as a result of climate change**, making it even harder and more dangerous for deminers to reach the areas.

Moreover, as the remaining mine areas are **situated along the Thai-Cambodian border**, our staff need to take their utmost caution in **conducting demining missions in the areas**.

We are in the process of **consulting with the Government of Cambodia to establish a joint mechanism** under the framework of the **General Border Committee or GBC as a collective effort to work on mine clearance along the border**.

We also encourage partners, including donors, to contribute to such effort **by focusing more on the cross-border aspects of mine clearance and providing specific mine action assistance programmes** that will eventually benefit and facilitate mine clearance along the border. Once achieved, we believe that it will benefit both Thailand and Cambodia and lead to **enhanced connectivity** between our two countries and peoples.

Mr President,

Although Thailand is still faced with operational constraints and challenges in clearing landmines, we remain **fully committed and are trying our best to complete our clearance obligations**. We stand ready to work with all parties to navigate through our common challenges, with a view to achieving a common goal of a mine-free world.

Thank you for your attention.

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