

Statement of Delegation of Thailand
By Gen. Rangpiracht Yamkaesorn,
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Agenda Item 9 b) Destruction of Anti-Personnel Mines in Mine Areas
i) Clearing Mined Areas: Conclusion and Recommendations
at the 22nd Meeting of States Parties (22MSP)
Mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
on 3 December 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

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Madam President,

At the outset, allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the President of the 22MSP, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, and ISU for their steadfast support under this Convention.

The seven freshly planted landmine incidents, as reported by ASEAN Observer Team-Thailand, which have occurred along the Thai - Cambodian border and resulted in seven Thai soldiers sustaining permanent disabilities, are a stark reminder of the human cost of landmines. These incidents underscore **the urgency of realizing our shared vision of a mine-free world.**

Madam President,

Thailand is currently in its **third extension period for Article 5 obligations, which lasts until 2026, guided by the Convention and the Siem Reap - Angkor Action Plan.** This year, Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC) has made measurable progress, reducing more than 4 sq.km. of mine-contaminated areas, to just 12.8 sq.km. across 15 districts in 6 provinces along the Thai - Cambodia border – disposing over 8,000 items of explosives and unexploded ordnance.

Despite these achievements, the current pace of clearance remains insufficient to meet the deadline.

Three main challenges contribute to this:

First, Thailand has faced obstructions in accessing areas along the border by the Cambodian side. Between December 2023 to September 2025, the Thai deminers were obstructed 22 times by the Cambodian troops, despite the commitments made by the Prime Ministers and the agreements reached under bilateral mechanism that humanitarian demining is *without prejudice to the survey and demarcation of land boundary.*

Second, the landmine incidents that occur along the border indicates **an increase in contamination within Thai territory**. This means additional survey is required. No clearance effort can be completed if new landmines continue to be emplaced into areas we have already worked to secure.

Third, the remaining minefields also pose complex **geographical and technical challenges**, including **high contamination density**. In 2025, we detect nearly **one mine per 12.4 sq.m.**

These factors compel Thailand to request **a fourth extension in 2026**.

To complete the demining tasks, Thailand urges Cambodia to cooperate fully in *good faith*, or at the very least, to not obstruct access of the humanitarian demining units.

We also urge Cambodia to re-prioritize demining along the border in its work plan to reflect its own commitment to cooperation with Thailand, which will also help to build trust, reduce tension, and create a conducive environment for fulfilling both countries' obligations under Article 5. We also call on donors and other partners to assist us in achieving this objective.

Madam President,

During the fourth extension period, Thailand's priorities will go beyond survey and clearance.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education will remain central. This year, TMAC delivered risk education programmes to 40,000 people. Currently, TMAC has prioritized risk education for border communities.

Victim Assistance also remains a priority. For the seven Thai soldiers who sustained permanent disabilities in the recent incidents, long-term support, rehabilitation, and financial assistance are being ensured for them and their families.

Thailand will also continue to advance a gender-, age-, and disabilities-responsive approach to mine action activities. This year, TMAC has seen a 20% increase in female representation, with several women promoted to leadership positions.

Lastly, Thailand will continue to enhance our cooperation with partners, in particular, for the **resurvey of minefields** along the border areas, where risks may have increased and where new types of plastic mines may have been laid.

We remain deeply grateful to Japan, the United States, NPA, the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation, GICHD, ICBL, and the Thai Civilian Deminer

Association—in humanitarian demining efforts, including support from some partners in technical assessments of the recent landmine incidents.

Special thanks to NPA who has been involved with TMAC since the landmine impact survey in early 2000's. We look forward to NPA's support in conducting a new comprehensive survey during the 4th extension.

Madam President,

Thailand reaffirms its steadfast commitment to fulfilling its Article 5 obligations and stand ready to work closely with all partners to advance the shared humanitarian objectives of the Convention.

Thank you.

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