

ICBL Comments on Cambodia's Article 5 Extension Request
Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Meeting, Geneva 17-20 June 2025

Thank you, Chair.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines applauds Cambodia for the impressive progress over the years and for an exemplary mine action programme. However, we are concerned by the lack of meaningful progress along the Cambodia-Thailand border - where the most serious clearance challenges remain.

This is not new. For several years now, both Cambodia and Thailand have cited difficulties and reported discussions, but there is still no evidence of concrete steps forward – namely joint survey or clearance operations. We are also concerned that the current border tensions may further complicate these efforts.

Meanwhile, nearly half of all mine accidents in Cambodia over the past decade occurred outside known minefields, mostly in these “inaccessible” border areas. That alone underlines the urgency of addressing this issue.

We regret the baseline survey along the border started only in late 2024 and it was not possible to have its full results earlier.

We urge both Cambodia and Thailand to intensify cooperation and commit to transparent, verifiable progress. Continued delays put lives at risk and slow the path to a mine-free Cambodia.

On the financial side, Cambodia is requesting over \$116 million for this extension but provides limited clarity on how much is secured, what will come from international donors, or how inflation will be handled over five years. There's also no costing for risk education efforts - despite their critical role in reducing casualties.

Cambodia's EORE work through schools and local volunteers is commendable, but the current plan lacks details on who will be reached, how, and at what cost. A proper, costed, multi-year EORE plan would be useful.

Lastly, we welcome Cambodia's significant national contribution in 2023, but note that no government funds were available in 2024. In light of funding uncertainties - especially the potential drop in U.S. support - we encourage Cambodia to plan for contingencies and step up its resource mobilization efforts.

We look forward to the updated request later this year and we hope it will be clear, comprehensive and will remain ambitious.

Thank you