

**Decisions on the request submitted by Cambodia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention**

**29 November 2019**

- i. The Conference assessed the request submitted by Cambodia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 (1), agreeing to grant the request for an extension until 31 December 2025.
- ii. In granting the request, the Conference noted that, while Cambodia had not been able to complete the implementation of the principle commitment it had made to complete implementation by its deadline in 2020, as recorded in the decisions of the Second Review Conference, and while it is unfortunate that after almost two decades of intensive humanitarian demining efforts Cambodia does not have a precise definition of its remaining contamination, Cambodia has made commendable progress and has committed to increase its capacity and reinvigorate efforts to garner an understanding of the extent of the remaining challenge and fulfil its obligations during the extension period.
- iii. In granting the request, the Conference noted that Cambodia was projecting that it would need approximately five years and eleven months from the date of submission of its request to survey suspected hazardous areas and clear confirmed hazardous areas. The Conference, in recalling that the implementation of Cambodia's national demining plan may be affected by pending survey and the agreement on work plans to address antipersonnel mines in un-demarcated border areas, requested that Cambodia submit to the States Parties, by 15 August 2022 and 30 April 2024, an updated work plans for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget.
- iv. Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that both Cambodia and all States Parties would benefit if Cambodia's national demining plan incorporated its intentions concerning mined areas it has reported along the Cambodia - Thailand border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along that border. The Conference noted the importance of Cambodia keeping the States Parties informed by reporting on information on and plans to deal with mined areas along Cambodia's common border with Thailand.
- v. In granting the request, the Conference noted the importance of Cambodia ensuring that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied by all those involved for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention, including in ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed.

- vi. The Conference further encouraged Cambodia to continue seeking improved land release and certification techniques, which could lead to Cambodia fulfilling its obligations in a shorter time frame. The Conference noted that doing so could benefit Cambodia in ensuring that the humanitarian, social and economic impacts outlined by Cambodia in its request are addressed as quickly as possible.
- vii. The Conference noted the importance of Cambodia continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by area cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared. The Conference further noted the importance of Cambodia reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with the IMAS by providing information disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas.
- viii. Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that, while the plan presented by Cambodia is ambitious but workable, and lends itself well to be monitored, its success is contingent upon the results of ongoing survey efforts, negotiations to address undemarcated border areas, the expansion of the demining capacity, and significant co-contribution from the State budget and stable international funding. In this regard, the Conference noted that the Convention would benefit from Cambodia informing the States Parties, by 30 April of each year, in line with its obligations under Article 7, on the following:
  - a. Annual progress and results of baseline survey activities 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;
  - b. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Cambodia's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated in a manner consistent with the IMAS and their impact on annual targets as given in Cambodia's work plan;
  - c. 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;
  - d. 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;
  - e. Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines to the population through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
  - f. Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available in the Cambodian State Budget and national and international financing received to support implementation efforts;

- g. 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.
  
- ix. The Conference noted the importance, in addition to Cambodia reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.