

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Republic of Tajikistan attaches significant importance and emphasizes valuable role of the international community in the issues related to destruction of explosive ammunition and the whole range of problems connected with mines.

Our Government understands the seriousness and attaches great significance to the solution of this issue.

In 2015 based on our annual work plan there are the 7 main activities are ongoing. Non-technical Survey, Manual clearance, Instalment of Warning signs, Handover of cleared land to local authorities and Capacity Development of national institutions. All areas accessible for mine detection dogs and mechanical demining machines almost finished. Mine detection dogs project closed and dogs are handed over to the polis and border guards.

Due to financial issues in 2015 less operational teams are deployed for land release activities. Funds mobilized only to deploy totally 11 manual clearance teams and one non-technical survey teams.

Since March 2014, the first all-female demining team has operated in southern Tajikistan which contributed to the release of around 127,625 sq m landmine-contaminated land, found and destroyed 809 anti-personnel mines.

In Tajikistan land release operations have been conducted in 234 mined areas in 16 Districts from 2003 to the end of 2014. As a results totally 14.5 km² of the land were released through NTS, mine clearance and technical survey operations.

During the Land release operations there were found and destroyed 55,773 AP mines, 174 Hazard areas released and handed over to Local Authorities for safe use.

As of January 2015, as a results of the land release operations, including through mine clearance, area reduction by technical survey, area cancellation by NTS with and without intervention into the contaminated areas, added new contaminated areas, as well as taking into account inaccessible areas in 17 districts of Tajikistan, including 12 in Tajik-Afghan border and 5 in Central Region, 100 confirmed mined areas and

plus 149 unsurveyed areas are remained for conducting NTS and clearance operations. Total size of areas consists more then 11 km².

The main challenges of Land release operations which are making barriers or impede activities in hazard areas.

- Accessibility of areas for MDDs and Machines

All areas accessible for MDDs and machines almost completed.

- Required only manual demining operations

The speed of which is slow and productivity is less

- Difficult areas:

Many of areas are located in hard to reach areas.

- Weather:

Most of areas, mainly in Central Region, are accessible only 3-4 months a year (i.e. only during summer period).

- Security situation in Tajik-Afghan border: