

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY CAMBODIA

I. Progress in implementation

1. Cambodia reported that in 2017 a total of 1,087 areas were released measuring 86,549,358 square metres, including 24,432,517 square metres cancelled, 15,484,867 square metres reduced, and 46,631,975 square metres cleared, destroying in the process 4,318 anti-personnel mines and 16,885 other explosive items destroyed.
2. Cambodia reported that in 2017 the baseline survey was on-going in 21 districts, identifying 815 suspected hazardous areas measuring 112,748,454 square metres.
3. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2017 that Cambodia could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

4. The Committee noted that Cambodia provided clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table with precise perimeters and locations of areas known anti-personnel mines. Cambodia reported a total of 9,588 suspected hazardous areas remaining, totalling 894,868,065 square metres.
5. The Committee observed that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas in each region required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The Committee also noted that annual updates on the results of survey efforts would be welcome.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. The Committee observed that Cambodia's Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 was adopted on December 2017. The Committee noted that the strategy projects to release a total of 1,709 square kilometres, including 877 square kilometres known or suspected to be contaminated with landmines, with annual milestones addressing 109.6 square kilometres per year. The Committee noted that, while Cambodia anticipates releasing a considerable amount of area, the annual milestone of 109.6 square kilometres for 8 years would result in Cambodia releasing less than the estimated remaining challenge of 894,868,065 square metres. The Committee welcomes further clarification from Cambodia on annual milestones contained within its strategy.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. The Committee recalled its conclusions from 2017 that, since Cambodia submitted its 2009 extension request, the IMAS on land release have been amended and may contain approaches to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation. The Committee would welcome further information on any amendments made to Cambodia's standards, in order to ensure that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies in lines with IMAS are in place in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

8. The Committee recalled that the Second Review Conference, (2RC) had requested Cambodia to provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its

extension request. The Committee noted that Cambodia had acted upon the commitments made in its extension request to develop and thereafter revise a single national clearance plan that takes into account the proficiencies and strengths of the various demining operators.

VI. Mine risk reduction

9. Cambodia reported on measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to at-risk populations through ten actors, including the national security sector, international INGOs and local self-help organisations, benefiting over 500,000 people. The Committee noted that beneficiary figures were disaggregated by sex and age. The Committee noted the actions taken by Cambodia in Mine Risk Education and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.