

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY THAILAND

I. Progress in implementation

1. Thailand reported that in 2017 it addressed a total of 42 suspect hazardous areas located in 16 districts of 9 Provinces, releasing 30,979,269 square metres, including 26,450,492 square metres cancelled, 4,115,068 square metres reduced and 413,705 square metres cleared. Thailand reported that through these efforts 5,664 anti-personnel landmines and 237 other explosive items were destroyed.
2. The Committee observed a minor discrepancy in the amount of area reported released in 2017 between 30,979,269 square metres in Table D-2, and 30,948,474 square metres as the area reported released in D1. Suspect hazardous areas that can be operated/surveyed 20,849,269 square metres, and D2. SHAs that are pending demarcation process, 10,099,205 square metres. The committee welcomes Thailand's clarification on the area addressed in 2017.
3. The Committee observed that the information provided by Thailand on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with information provided by Thailand in its 2017 extension request. The Committee welcomes Thailand's report of progress in implementation in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee noted the importance of Thailand continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance, reduction or cancellation.
4. The Committee welcomed Thailand employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

5. The Committee observed that Thailand provided clarity on its remaining challenge, including a summary table with number and size SHA by district. Thailand reported that that, as of the end of 2017, an additional suspect hazardous area measuring 30,795 square metres was identified. Thailand reported a remaining challenge as of 31 December 2017 consisting of 279 suspect hazardous areas located in 29 districts, of 13 provinces totalling an area of 391,656,698 square metres. The Committee noted that Thailand's has classified its remaining challenge in Phase 1. SHAs that can be operated/surveyed measuring 42,946,771 square metres and 2. SHAs that are inaccessible due to pending demarcation process, 348,709,927 square metres.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

6. The Committee observed that Thailand planned to address 67 suspect hazardous areas measuring 71,152,827 square metres in 2018 with a remaining challenge after 2018 consisting of 215 suspect hazardous areas measuring 306,985,681 square metres.
7. The Committee further observed that information on Thailand's progress to complete Phase 1 by 1 November 2018 would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

8. The Committee observed that Thailand reported that in 2017 it had re-established the National Committee for Mine Action under the Order of the Prime Minister, with the Prime Minister as its chairperson.

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

9. The Committee observed that Thailand had provided updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its 2017 extension request granted at the 16MSP. The Committee recalled Thailand's commitment to submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request.
10. The Committee further recalled the decision of the 16MSP had requested Thailand to keep the States Parties informed on progress in updating the National Mine Action Standards in line with the latest version of IMAS and the results of this effort; i) resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received and resources made available by the government of Thailand to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to expand its civilian demining capacity and the results of these effort; ii) updates on efforts to explore new technology to help survey areas with are hard to access near the borders and the results of these efforts; iii) update on efforts to make continuous improvements in the capacity of its information management team, systems and processes to enable more precise information on survey and clearance operations to be collected and displayed. The Committee would welcome updates with respect to these commitments and milestones.

VI. Mine risk reduction

11. The Committee observed that Thailand has reported in detail on actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including by raising awareness and promoting behavioural changes through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities. Thailand reported that its MRE programmes reached 41,913 people in 2017.
12. The Committee observed that the information on MRE messaging and beneficiaries provided by Thailand was not disaggregated by gender and age and encourages Thailand to disaggregate statistics in this manner. The Committee welcomes further information on Thailand's 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.