

**The speech of the Director of Tajikistan Mine Action Centre in
Intersessional meeting of the States Parties regarding article 5 of the
Ottawa Convention, 7-8 June, 2018, Geneva**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

S1. First of all, using the opportunity, I would like to thank the ISU and **GICHD UNDP** for their contribution in organizing this meeting.

S2. I would like to update you on land Release progress and achievements toward Article 5 completion in Tajikistan.

Taking into account the mine contamination in Tajikistan (especially on the Tajik-Afghan border and Central region), the country has worked towards mainstreaming mine action into a government agenda since 2005. Progress in this direction has been increased and as the result Mine Action Programme was nationalized with establishment of the TNMAC (in 2014) responsible for the coordination of mine action activity in Tajikistan with further development of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Humanitarian Demining”, the National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan on humanitarian mine action for 2017-2020 and the National Humanitarian Mine Action Standards, and approval of these legal documents by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

On this map you can see green dots are the released mine fields, pink ones are remaining minefields, and grey dots are the unsurveyed minefields.

Since the beginning of the programme 265 mined areas were released through the technical survey and clearance in 16 districts of the country, totally 19.4 square km. handed over to local government, out of which 6.2 square km are the reduced land, 1.3 square km – cancelled land, and 11.9 square km – cleared land.

A major requirement now is to start handing cleared land back to people. An estimated 10,5 million square meters of ground remain contaminated or suspected of contamination, in approximately 200 locations. These figures refer to the Tajik-Afghan border and Central region of Tajikistan.

S3. Based on the available statistics since 1992 868 people were involved in mine/ERW accidents, out of which 492 people were injured and 376 people

died. In 2017, 4 teenagers were involved in mine accident, which resulted in three injuries and one died

S4. In this slide you can see Remaining hazard and unsurveyed areas with total 10,5 square km out of which 8.3 square km remaining surveyed minefields, 1.3 square km – unsurveyed minefield records, and 0.9 square km – remaining surveyed BAC.

7 districts of Khatlon region and 4 districts of GBAO Regions and 2 districts of Central region are contaminated by antipersonnel mines.

As of May 2018, 162 confirmed hazardous areas with an approximate total size of 8.4 km² is remained to be cleared.

45 un-surveyed minefield records need to be surveyed and if confirmed subsequently cleared.

Based on desk analysis 45 minefield records cover approximately 60 mined areas with an approximate total size of 1.4 km² and contain 35,000 recorded AP mines. Remaining area is in total 10.5 sq km to be cleared.

According to information collected during the NTS in Tajikistan the one of the most contaminated district by antipersonnel mines and ERW is Sh. Shohin district. The district with difficult terrain has many other problems related to food security and poverty, water supply and sanitation, poor road infrastructure, vulnerability to natural disasters, instability and lack of development projects. The population living in dangerous areas are mainly engaged in livestock, agriculture, fodder, and collection of firewood, and that despite the high degree of mine risk, the local population uses hazardous areas.

S5. This illustration shows annual land Release progress since 2003 is that more than 19.4 km² of the land has been released through joint NTS/TS interventions, mine clearance and the result more than 80937 mines and UXO including cluster bombs found and destroyed.

In total, 270 (including 5 BACs) hazardous areas were released and handed over to the local authorities for safe use.

The released land is used by Tajikistan's population for agriculture, water supply, construction works (road, border posts etc.), fisheries, mining.

S6. One of the big challenge is funding now, the level of funding is reduced in comparison with previous years. Unfortunately, after mechanical clearance ended, funding levels decreased instead of covering the mobilization of further manual teams. However, we have still areas suitable for mechanical clearance in TAB and assets exists within the TMAP (though existing MoD and FSD mechanical teams converted to manual operations).

S7. After the land clearance and the handover to the local authorities for safe use TNMAC conducted post-clearance assessment. This diagram illustrates the utilization of the cleared lands for the purposes indicated in this diagram by percentage, namely: coalmine, construction, fisheries, goldmine, agriculture, road, pastureland, and borderland.

S8. Circumstances that hamper the land release operations are the following:

- **Difficult areas:** Tajikistan is highly mountainous country; many of minefields are located in hard to reach areas.
- **Operational season:** Generally, annually operations starting in early April and suspending in end of November (only an 8 month operational season), but taking into consideration monthly break shifts, weekends and holidays operations conducting only 6 months a year.in mountainous areas.
- **Weather:** Extreme weather conditions are another challenge to clearance operations. In Central region, many minefields are accessible only 3-4 months a year (i.e. only during summer period).
- **Hard to reach areas:** As you may know, 93% of the territory of Tajikistan are mountains. And the majority of the minefields are located in hard-to-reach terrain. High, steep peaks and hard rocky ground make the land release progress very slow.
- **Security situation in Tajik-Afghan border-** is another very important issue posing obstacles to the demining operations, significantly affecting

the progress in meeting the deadlines for Tajikistan obligations under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention.

- **Funding:** Insufficient funds for the programme have imposed operational challenges.

S 9. We are in full commitment to meet the Article 5 of Ottawa Convention obligations, and taking into account all the obstacles that hamper smooth and timely completion of land release operations in Tajikistan, we are now in the process of developing the extension request so that we could properly finalise land clearance and make the life of our people safe!!!

What concerns Article 5 Completion Plan, it describes the multifaceted and serious dimensions of the mine problem in Tajikistan, specifies the institutions involved in the implementation of the Article 5 Completion Plan and the funds required for its implementation, as well as the timetable for addressing of remaining confirmed hazard areas and unsurveyed minefield records. Now we updating Article 5 completion Plan based on challenges and progress made in 2017 including precise and clear milestones for all mined areas in Tajikistan

S10. TMAP demining operational capacity for 2018 is demonstrated in this slide

Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD):

1 WAD team

This year, due to the lack of financial support, FSD cannot perform the demining operations.

Ministry of Defense (MoD):

4 Manual clearance teams

1 teams Committee of emergency and civil defense

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA):

2 Manual clearance teams

2 Female manual clearance team

Union of Sappers of Tajikistan (UST):

2 Non-technical survey teams

There is still a lot of work to do for Tajikistan to fulfill its obligations. Tajikistan still needs international assistance in mine action program implementation in the future and invites the world community to continue its precious assistance for this important issue.

S11. Despite the challenges we made some progress in terms of the regional cooperation:

- Based on the MoU between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, within the framework of Cross-Border cooperation, with the financial support from the US Department of State, TNMAC officers, starting from 2017, provided QA and QC on the Afghan side according to the Afghanistan National Mine Action Standards. Before starting the project our specialists have been certified by DMAC Afghanistan. **Within the Cross-Border cooperation project, in total 7 QA missions have been conducted by TNMAC QA officers to 6 minefields in Afghanistan, from 6 minefields they did QC for the 4 completed minefields, where checked 9270 m2. In addition 12 new minefields observed during the NTS and confirmed and reported to DMAC.**

- Moreover, OSCE and TNMAC, with financial support from the US Department of State provided EOD level 1,2,3 and 3+ for specialists from Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia and Afghanistan.

This month the Senior Managers Course will be conducted by James Madison University in Dushanbe and will involve participants from Central Asian countries, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

S12. Information Management

A significant progress was made by TNMAC in the information management – we are using IMSMA database as main tool for data entry and reporting. For the data analyses and dissemination we are using Mine Action Intelligence Tool (MINT) with the support provided by GICHD. The access is provided to Mine Action information for the all implementing partners.

Within the TNMAC it was launched ArcGIS Online and Priority Setting Tool (PriSMA) and currently developed online maps are available in TNMAC.

In 2018 we started Implementation of IMSMA core with GICHD support. Implementation of IMSMA Core (new integrated tool) is planned in 2018, which will provide access to information to a wide range of stakeholders, foster information sharing and provide near-real time maps and reports on the extent of land contamination. Agreed with GICHD make IMSMA Core operational by the end of the 2018 in cooperation with GICHD.

S13. On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank UNDP, OSCE GICHD, ISU and all our donors US DoS, Norway, Switzerland, Japan for their great contribution to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme. Also we present our highest gratitude and appreciation to the international agencies (NPA and FSD) that have been involved in implementation of mine action program in Tajikistan.

Thank you for your attention!




Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional meetings

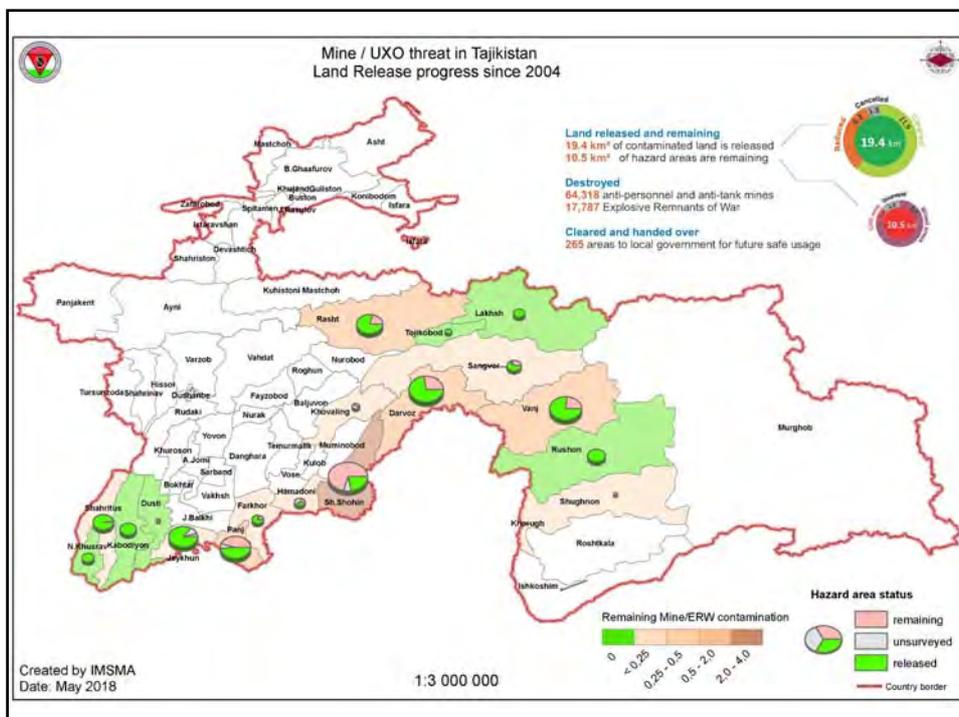
Geneva , 7 -8 June, 2018

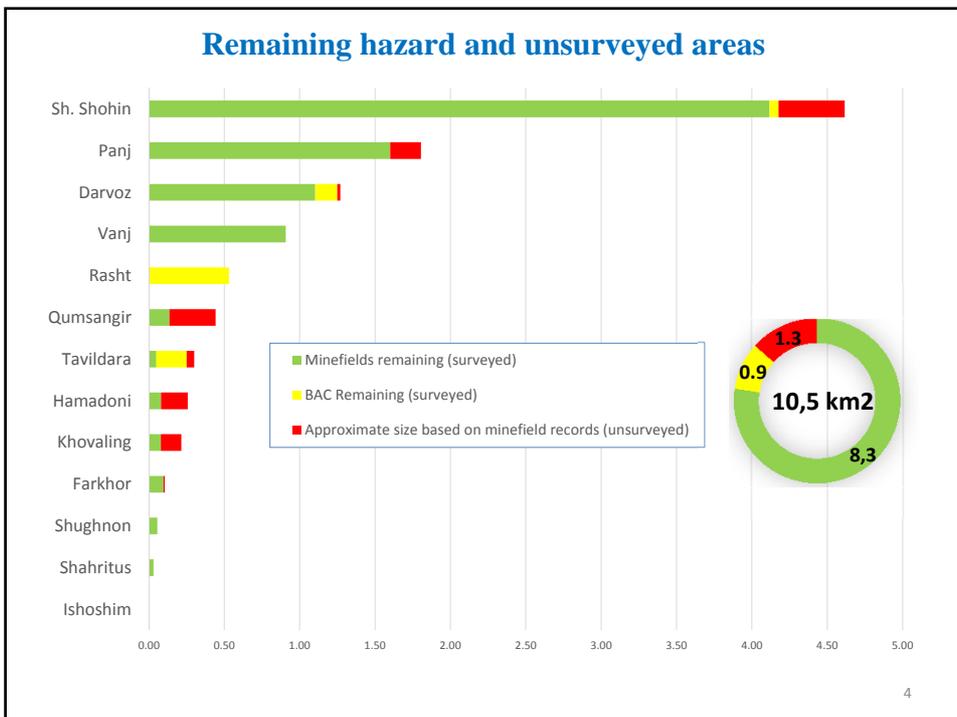
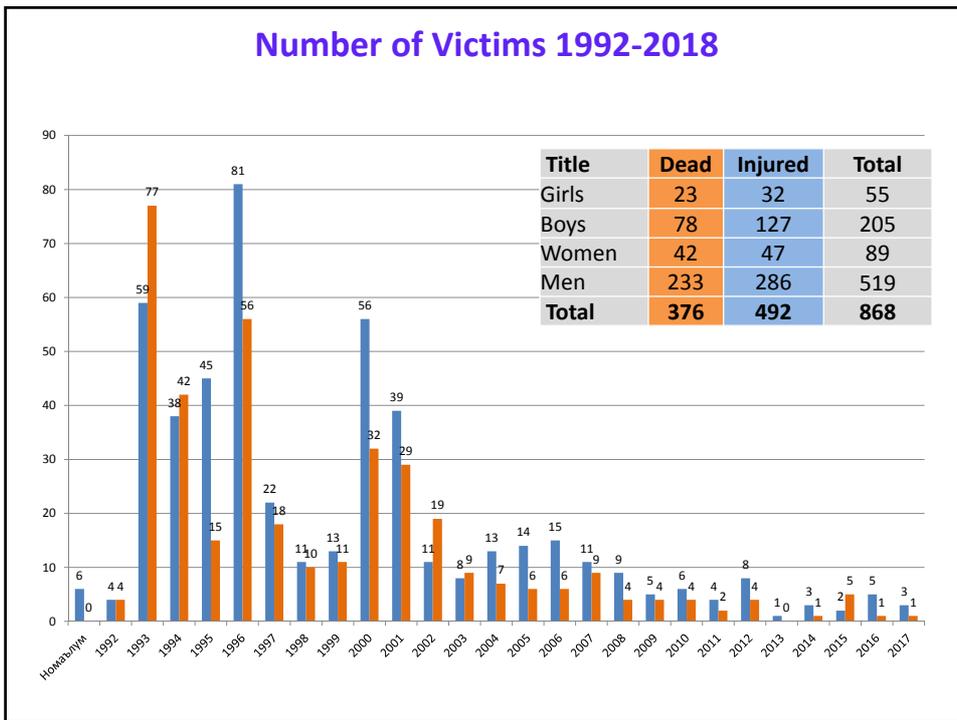
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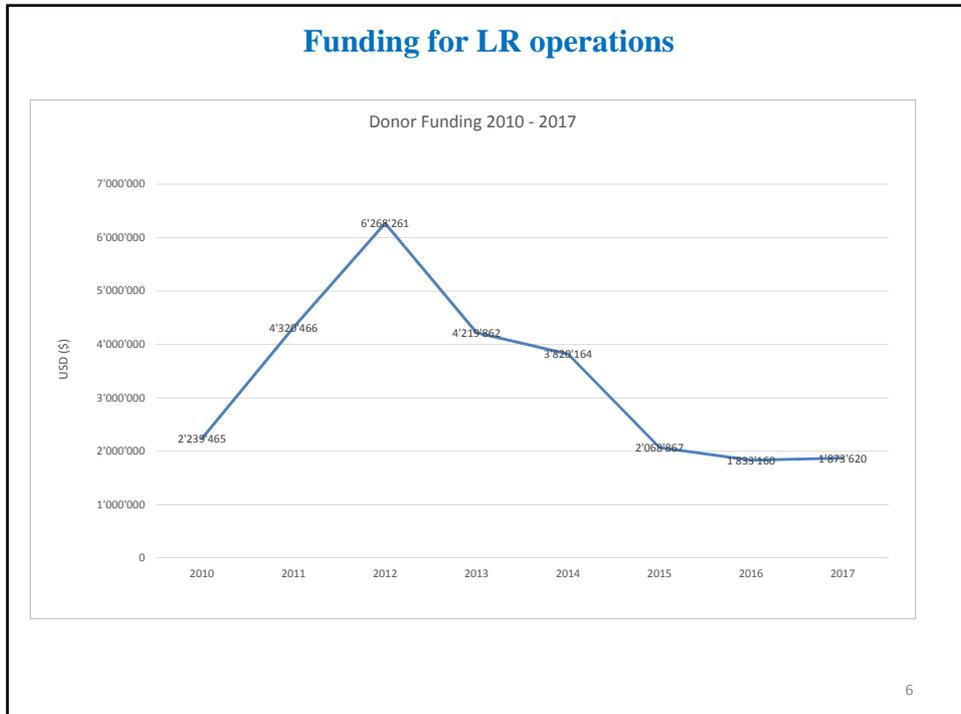
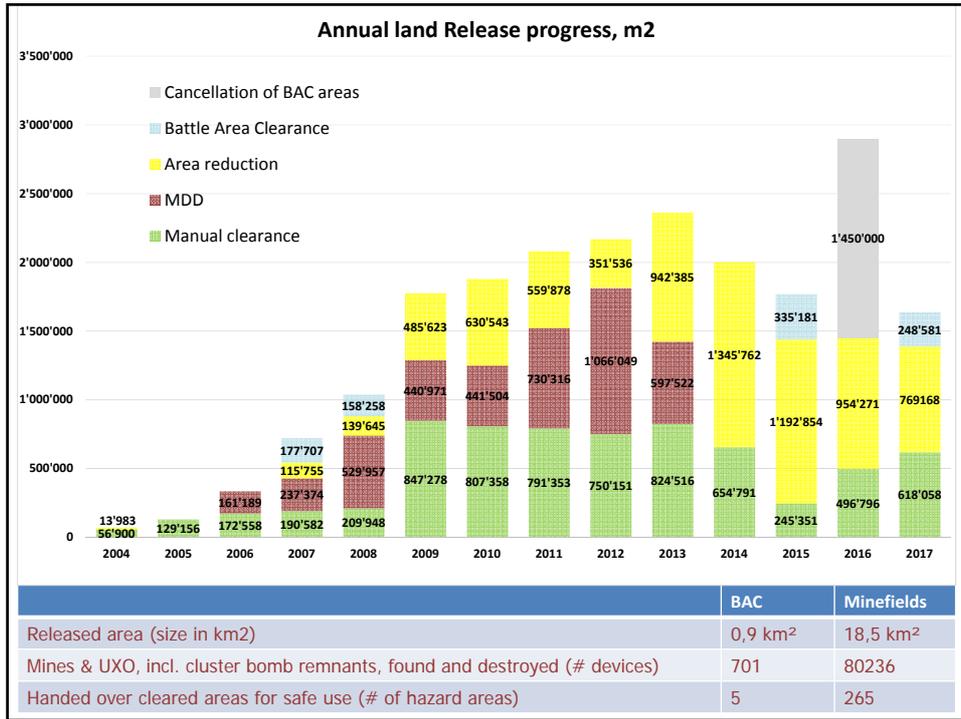
“Land Release progress and toward Article 5 completion”

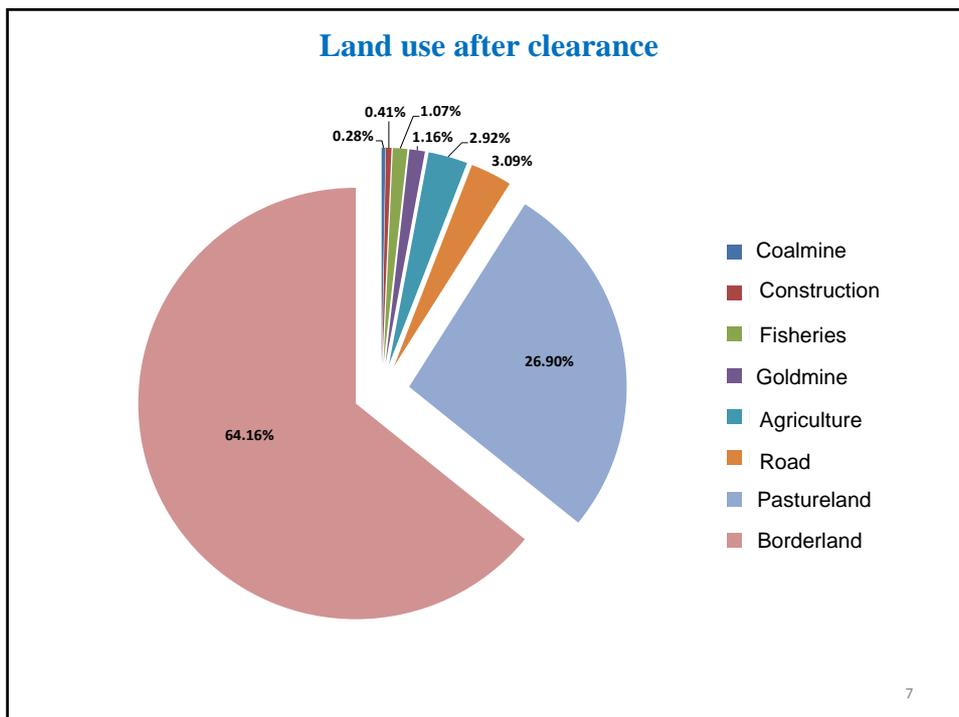
Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda

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Quantitative and Qualitative aspects:

Circumstances that impede Land release operations



- Difficult areas
- Operational season
- Weather
- Hard to reach areas
- Security situation in Tajik-Afghan border
- Funding

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Tajikistan Mine Action Centre

Article 5 Completion Plan 2016-2019



To address these challenges and remaining contamination, Tajikistan is drafting Article 5 completion plan based on accurate data and realistic expectations.

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TMAP demining operational capacity in 2018



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CROSS BORDER COOPERATION PROJECT



Information Management

IMSMA NG6

TNMAC is using IMSMA database as main tool for data entry and reporting.

Mine Action Intelligence Tool (MINT)

- Provided online access to Mine Action information through the MINT <https://mint.gichd.org>



ArcGIS Online and Priority Setting Tool (PriSMA)

- PriSMA has been launched
- Online maps are available in TNMAC



IMSMA Core implementation started and will be operational by the end of 2018.



Tajikistan Mine Action Centre



**Many thanks
for your attention!**