

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
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Director General, Thailand Mine Action Centre
Intersessional Meetings, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, Switzerland
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Agenda 3: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5
Implementation

Madam President,

Please allow me to, firstly, congratulate you and Members of the Bureau on the assumption of this year's responsibility. You can count on our full support. I would like to also voice my appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for their dedication and hard work.

Madam President,

Last year, the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention granted Thailand an extension of the deadline for antipersonnel demining in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention for a period of 5 years, from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2023. At the Meeting, we reiterated our strong confidence that this can be achieved and made a commitment to update the Convention regularly of the progress.

I am delighted to report to the Convention that we have made significant progress, in large part due to the full and successful utilization of the Land Release method, which for some areas have helped cancel around 85% without the need for clearance operations.

In 2018, we aim to release around 70 sq.km. Up until the end of April, we have already completed nearly 30 sq.km. At the current pace, we should be able to surpass our demining goals for this year and work on areas part of the extension period much earlier. Furthermore, by the end of this year, we hope to declare 3 provinces, namely, Uttaradit, Yala, and Tak, mine-free.

Thailand has engaged closely with our neighboring partners to coordinate the mine clearance activities in border areas. We are currently working with Cambodia, including the Cambodian Mine Action Authority and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) and the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), in this regard. Our close and cordial relationship has resulted in an agreement to further explore the possibility of joint operation between the two countries.

We are also currently revising our National Mine Action Standard (NMAS) to ensure its full alignment with the latest international standards.

Madam President,

In closing, let me reiterate once again Thailand's commitment and our full support for the work of the Convention.

Thank you.

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