

## Thailand's Plan on Disposal of Retained Mine under Article 3 of the Mine Ban Convention

### Background

Thailand ratified the Convention on 27 November 1998, and the Convention entered into force for Thailand on 1 May 1999. The Convention dictated that Thailand had to destroy all the stockpiled anti-personnel mines within 4 years after the Convention become effective. This means Thailand has to fulfill this obligation by 2003. However, the Article 3 of the Convention allows for 'the retention or transfer of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques is permitted. The amount of such mines shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for the above-mentioned purposes.'

### Milestone

1. On 24 Apr 2003, Thailand has disposed of 337,725 anti-personnel mines while the other 4,970 mines were retained under the Article 3. Thailand, by TMAC, has reported this outcome to the UN under the Article 7 Reporting Framework.

2. During 17 MSP, Landmine Monitor 2018 has reported to the meeting of 34 State Parties with over 1,000 anti-personnel landmines in possession under the Article 3. This includes Thailand which ranked at 14 as it has 3,133 ap mines in possession.

3. After reviewing the situation, Thailand believes it can lower the amount of the retained mines under Article 3 so it planned to dispose more of them.

### Way Forward

Thailand planned to destroy approximately 3,000 retained mines during Jul – Aug 2019. The event should only take 3 days and Sa Kaeo Province is chosen as the location. The foreign ambassadors, government representatives as well as representatives from international organizations will be invited to participate in this event as well as various activities such as Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance, Demining as well as landmines disposal. Thailand would like to use this opportunity to show that we are committed to the obligation of the Mine Ban Convention.