

# Denmark

## Meetings of the State Parties 28. November - 2 December 2011, Phnom Pehn

### **Update on the Danish process of mine clearance in accordance with Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention**

*Honorable Co-chairs and Co-rapporteurs, Distinguished Delegates,  
Dear Colleagues*

On behalf of the Danish Government I would like to express a warm thanks to the Cambodian government for the excellent preparations and warm welcome at this eleventh Meeting of State Parties.

Mr. President, let me congratulate you and the Bureau with the election. I will pledge the full Danish support and cooperation. Allow me also to thank the Implementation Support Unit for the significant work carried out.

[We associate ourselves fully with the statement of the European Union.]

Denmark has pledged to work towards securing a world free of anti-personnel mines. Since 1992 Denmark has donated more than 320 million USD to mine action activities around the world; making Denmark among the ten largest donors in this field in absolute numbers. Most recently, Denmark has donated 1 million USD for mine clearance in Libya

On behalf of the Government of Denmark I would like to reiterate Denmark's full commitment to fulfil its obligations in accordance with Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention.

The remaining minefield in Denmark was established in 1944 on the west coast of Jutland at the peninsula of Skallingen. There have been no mine accidents in this minefield since 1946 and the impact to the local community is insignificant.

The clearance project is managed by the Danish Coastal Authority under the Ministry of Transport. The clearance has been conducted by different contractors in three steps of which the two first were completed in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

The ongoing clearance of Area 3 is conducted by the Danish contractor "Damasec/J.Jensen".

Area 3 involves 120 hectares of marsh, dunes, dikes and beach. Operations in this area commenced in July 2010. By November 2011 the contractor responsible of the clearance has reported the task completed. The Danish Coastal Authority has completed the quality assurance and quality control procedures of approximately 91 hectares which were all found to be in accordance with the required quality and accordingly accepted for release. Final handover of these areas will take place in December this year.

The Danish Coastal Authority is at the moment conducting quality control of the remaining 29 hectares, which are all categorized as "high marsh areas". The quality control of these areas is conducted by the NGO Danish Church Aid (DCA). During this quality check, 1 ap-mine is found as well as a number of metal pieces. The non-conformance caused by the ap-mine has been addressed by the clearance contractor by re-clearing the production of the specific deminer, who was responsible of this particular area.

The metal pieces found during the first quality control, has raised the concern that the clearance in the high marsh areas in general has not been adequate. The Danish Coastal Authority has therefore expanded the quality control. This expanded quality control is ongoing at the moment.

The beach and the low marsh areas were all cleared to the required quality without causing any problems or delays. However, the dunes in Area 3 have been a challenge. The initial clearance profile of the dunes proved to be inadequate and was therefore redefined. This expanded the processed volume in the dunes considerably and caused a delay to the initial time schedule. Also the high marsh areas have been challenging, mainly because of a high number of scrap metal pieces.

In addition to the described Quality Control in accordance with IMAS 9.20, there has been an ongoing quality assurance conducted by the Coastal Authority in association with the external contractor "Bureau Veritas".

The ongoing Quality Control followed by possible partly re-clearance will be completed before July 2012. Denmark will therefore fulfil its article 5 obligations before the deadline of July 2012.

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Denmark will continue to keep State Parties informed of our progress and actions. We have appreciated our dialogue with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in the planning process regarding the release of the final area, and I would like to take this opportunity once more to thank GICHD for its valuable cooperation so far.

Finally, should any State Parties have an interest in the experiences Denmark has gained in terms of mine clearance in dynamic coastal areas, we will be happy to share our knowledge and experience with you.

*Thank you for your attention.*