

**Statement of the Delegation of Thailand at  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meeting  
“3.Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on the Article 5  
Implementation”**

18 – 20 June 2024, World Meteorological Organization, Switzerland

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Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

**Mr. Chair, members of the Article 5 Implementation Committee,  
and distinguished participants.**

The Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC) is honored to present the latest update on our demining situation under the three-year work plan during the third extension period (2024-2026).

I wish to highlight the strong commitment of Thailand's Chief of Defence Forces, General Songwit Noonpackdee, to Humanitarian Demining operations reflected by his very first field visit of the year on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to observe the TMAC HMAU operations.

Becoming State Party to the Convention, plays a significant role in Thailand's demining efforts, as it has been reinforcing our demining activities. Thailand signed the treaty on 3<sup>th</sup> December 1997, ratified it on November 27<sup>th</sup> 1998, and the treaty entered into force on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999. This marked the beginning of Thailand's dedicated humanitarian demining work.

Since the third extension granted at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties in 2022, Thailand has pushed forward the demining activities in 96 mined areas of approximately 21.8 square kilometers in 6 provinces. These areas are along the Thailand-Cambodia border where greater cooperation and coordination efforts with Cambodia are required for humanitarian demining operations.

TMAC's plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> extension period is to progressively clear these areas: approximately 7.3 square kilometers in fiscal year 2024,

followed by 7.4 square kilometers in fiscal year 2025, and the remaining of 7.1 square kilometers by 2026.

We wish to inform that TMAC's Humanitarian Demining operation has cleared nearly 29% of the targeted areas for Phase I (Nov 2023 – Oct 2024) of 7.3 square kilometers in the first six months of Thailand's fiscal year 2024 (Oct 1st 2023 – Mar 31st 2024). With this progress, and its exponential acceleration from now on, we are hopeful to be on track to achieve the full target by Phase's end. This success wouldn't be possible without the invaluable support from our partners particularly TIDA, GW and NPA. We take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation for their dedication and collaboration in the humanitarian mission.

Moving forward, Overall TMAC will:

- Collaborate with local communities to ensure local awareness and safety; and,
- Explore technological advancements to further improve demining efficiency.

TMAC has been actively promoting gender equality and meaningful participation of women in our demining workforce. In the fiscal year 2024 (Oct 2023 – Sept 2024), we've ensured equal opportunities for female staff in working place through different training and programme at home and abroad, them to attend international programs and, for the first time in Thailand's history, training three women in the rigorous TMAC and Mine Warfare course. These women are currently halfway through their trainings and well on their way to becoming valuable assets to our demining teams.

Thailand has been continuously promoting closer cooperation on various fronts both with fellow ASEAN members and international organizations. The recent fruitful discussion at the General Border Committee (GBC) meeting between Thailand and Cambodia is a prime example of and testimony to our commitment in mine clearance efforts. The outcome of the meeting paves the way for a joint action plan to be further discussed by the two parties to address the humanitarian demining operation efforts along Thailand – Cambodia border areas.

As another example of our cooperation, Thailand and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) are working together to ensure a smooth transition from demining to residual contamination management (RCM). As Thailand is progressing towards the fulfillment of its demining obligations, the said cooperation is focusing on developing best practices of RCM for Thailand and facilitating the safe return of land to local communities.

By implementing these practices, we are confident that we will achieve our RCM goal.

In closing, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the Committee's valuable time and consideration today, and also wish to emphasize the strong commitment to mine clearance in Thailand and towards the common goal of a mine-free world.

Thank you.

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