# Statement of the Delegation of Thailand By Lt. Gen. Sittipol Nimnuan

#### **Director-General of Thailand Mine Action Center**

### Agenda item 7: Review of the operation and status of the Convention Clearing mined areas 27 November 2019

(Slide 1 : Opening Slide)

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to convey through you, Mr. President, our sincere appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for their continued cooperation and support to Thailand's mine-clearance works.

(Slide 2: Remaining Challenges)

Mr. President,

Today, I have the honour to share with the Conference, the status and progress of Thailand's mine-clearance efforts.

For the past 20 years, the Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC) has put its utmost effort to landmines clearance operation and to release safe land back to our people. We fully commit to the obligations under the Convention with an aim to achieve mine-free Thailand by 2023.

At the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State Parties in Vienna, Thailand was granted the second extension to our mine-clearance deadline, which allows us until 31 October 2023 to fulfill this obligation.

As of 31 October 2019, Thailand has 172 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) and 82 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) with total area of 218 million sq.m., awaiting demining and releasing. The progress is in line with the updated work plan on Article 5, which was submitted to the ISU in April 2019.

#### (Slide 3: Overview of Thailand's Five-Year Plan)

Thailand has developed a Five-Year plan as a roadmap to meet our clearance obligations. The plan can be divided into two phases. During the first phase, from 2019 to 2020, our works will focus on conducting the Non-Technical Survey (NTS). This is to obtain precise information on mine contaminated areas, which will enable us to effectively release contaminated areas. While during the second phase, from 2021 to 2023, our operation will focus on Technical Survey and Clearance, based on information gained from NTS.

During the Intersessional Meetings in May 2019, Thailand projected to release around 120 million sq.m. of land in 2019. I am pleased to inform the Conference that from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2019, we went beyond our target by releasing, mostly through cancellation, 142 million sq.m. of contaminated land. In 2020, Thailand plans to further release 149 million sq.m. of the contaminated land.

## (Slide 4: Summary of Progress Made) Mr. President,

We have set an ambitious goal to become mine-free by 2023 and our determination to accomplish the goal remains unwavering. With 142 million sq.m. of land released and returned to our people this year, Thailand is now left with 172 SHAs or approximately 203 million sq.m. and 82 CHAs or 14.5 million sq.m to be released.

#### (Slide 5: Challenges I – Insufficient Mine Contamination Information)

Although the significant progress achieved this year has moved us closer towards the completion of our clearance work, challenges remain and many important issues need to be appropriately addressed. Insufficient information regarding the exact contaminated areas and its condition poses risks to the deminers, while causing delays to the clearance operation. Therefore, Thailand is focusing our works on both NTS and TS to gain necessary information in order to carry out the tasks safely and on schedule.

#### (Slide 6: Challenges – Rough Geographical Conditions)

Rough terrains and extreme geographical conditions create access and mobility difficulties to deminers. We are currently working to ensure that the demining personnel have all necessary equipment and technology for their operations.

#### (Slide 7: Challenges – Sensitive Mine Contaminated Area along the Border)

At present, the majority of the remaining contaminated areas are along the border between Thailand and its neighbouring countries. Thailand is working closely with its neighbours to facilitate and expedite our mine clearance operation.

#### (Slide 8: Additional Desired Support)

Thailand believes that assistance, both in terms of knowledge sharing and technical support, significantly contributes to the effective mineclearance operation and in the realization of the mine-free goal. We would therefore appreciate the assistance from the State Parties and partners, especially in the procurement of equipment necessary to access the areas with rough terrain and extreme geographical conditions.

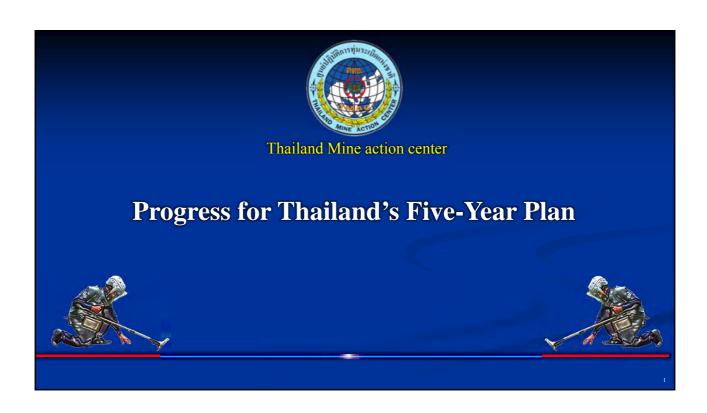
#### (Slide 9: Final Slide)

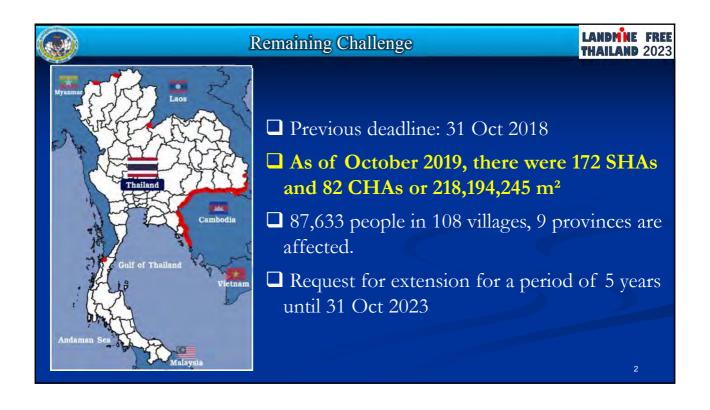
Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to extend Thailand's appreciation to the Government of Japan, Norway, and the United States of America for their continued support to our demining operation as well as Cambodia for their continued cooperation.

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

Thank you for your kind attention.

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	Over	view of	Thailand's Five-Yea	ar Pla	n (2019-20		ANDMNE FR
The second		Opera	tional Framework 2019 –	2020 (1	NTS Focus)		
Year	Area Surveyed (m²)		Projected Cancellation (m²)	Actual Result (m²)		CHAs Found (m²)	
2019	156,681,792		120,847,688	14	2,132,159	14,549,633	
Year	Area to be Surveyed (m²)		Projected Cancellation (m²)	Actual Result (m <sup>2</sup> )		CHAs Found (m²)	
2020	203,319,576		149,469,296	n/a		n/a	
	(	Operatio	nal Framework 2021 -20	023 (T	S/Clr Focu	s)	
	Year Proj		jected Number of CHAs		Amount of Area (m²)		
	2021		53 64		21,159,793 24,555,435		
	2022						
	2023		86	22,6		84,685	
	Total		203		68,399,913		

Si	Immary of Progress made  LANDMINE THAILAND 2
Mine Contamination (Since 31 Oct 2018)	> 254 mine contaminated areas > 360,001,368 m <sup>2</sup>
Progress made (1 Nov 2018 - 31 Oct 2019)	<ul> <li>▶ 82 SHAs or 142,132,159 m² released</li> <li>▶ 128,295,034 m² cancelled through NTS</li> <li>▶ 13,741,847 m² reduced through TS</li> <li>▶ 95,278 m² Cleared</li> <li>▶ 7,318 AP Mines destroyed</li> <li>▶ 1130 AT Mines (UVC) destroyed</li> </ul>
Remaining challenge (From 1 Nov 2019 onward)	<ul> <li>➤ 1,129 AT Mines/UXOs destroyed</li> <li>➤ Total = 218,194,245 m²</li> <li>➤ 172 SHAs = 203,644,612 m²</li> <li>➤ 82 CHAs = 14,549,633 m²</li> </ul>

