

**Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the
Request for extension submitted by Cambodia**

Mr. President (Chair),

We, as the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, welcome the inclusive approach taken by Cambodia in the preparation of its request and in formulating its indicative work plan, as contained in the extension request.

- On 27 March 2019, Cambodia submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 January 2020 deadline.
- On 9 April 2019, the Committee wrote to expert organisations in order to draw on expert mine clearance and legal advice on the request submitted by Cambodia.
- The Committee would like to thank the GICHD, HALO Trust, ICBL, MAG and the Mine Action Review for providing expert input.
- On 14 June 2019, the Committee wrote to Cambodia to request additional information.
- On 8 August 2019, Cambodia submitted to the Committee additional information in response to the Committee's questions.

- Cambodia's request is for 5 years, 11 months, until 31 December 2025.

In analysing Cambodia's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee.

Progress Made

On the progress made, the Committee welcomed the commitment made by Cambodia in previous requests, notably the continuing implementation of baseline surveys in order to determine with greater clarity and accuracy its remaining challenge and the progress in clearance, which was stated to be above its target. In this regard, the Committee highlighted the importance of Cambodia continuing to carry out survey operations with a common

method being applied by all those involved. The Committee highlighted the importance of Cambodia ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Committee also highlighted the importance of survey efforts resulting in greater clarity of Cambodia's remaining Article 5, or clearance, challenge.

The Committee further noted the importance of Cambodia continuing to report on its progress in a manner consistent with the IMAS.

Cambodia has highlighted quite clearly the circumstances which impeded Cambodia from achieving its deadline.

Cambodia's remaining challenge

The request contains information concerning Cambodia's remaining challenge. In this regard, the Committee highlighted the importance of Cambodia reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS, namely disaggregating by suspect and confirmed hazardous area in order to ensure clarity regarding its remaining challenge.

Implementation of its work plan

Concerning the implementation of Cambodia's work plan, the request indicates that a key component of Cambodia's work plan is an agreement between Cambodia and Thailand to address anti-personnel mine contamination near un-demarcated border areas. The Committee noted that Cambodia and all States Parties could benefit if additional clarity was provided on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along the Cambodian-Thai border and that all could benefit by Cambodia providing updates on such matters at intersessional meetings and at Meetings of the States Parties.

Also concerning Cambodia's work plan we noted the importance of Cambodia's efforts to increase its capacity for clearance and continuing its efforts to ensure the implementation of its gender mainstreaming plan, including through the recruitment of additional deminers

and continuing to report on these efforts.

Furthermore, concerning Cambodia's efforts to finalise the baseline survey, the Committee highlighted the importance of Cambodia ensuring an evidence-based approach to the classification of land as suspected or confirmed, in accordance with the IMAS.

Concluding remarks

In conclusion, noting that the request contains a three-year indicative work plan for the period of 2019-2021 and that the implementation of Cambodia's national demining plan will be affected by new information, agreements on survey and clearance in border areas, the impact of results from baseline survey activities that are projected to be completed in the remaining 73 districts by 2020, the plan to revisit 12,000 suspected hazardous areas identified during the initial baseline survey, as well as Cambodia's aim to declare 500 villages mine-free by the end of 2021.

The Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Cambodia submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 15 August 2022, and 30 April 2024, for the remaining period covered by the extension.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request and subsequently in responses to the Committee's questions is comprehensive, complete and clear. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Cambodia reporting annually by 30 April, as part of its Article 7 obligations, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. Annual progress of baseline survey activities, in the remaining 73 districts disaggregated, in a manner consistent with the IMAS, including the identification of new mined areas, and their impact on annual targets as given in Cambodia's work plan;
- b. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Cambodia's annual

survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared and their impact on annual targets as given in Cambodia's work plan;

- c. Progress made in the implementation of the planned agreement between the Cambodia and Thailand General Border Committee regarding plans to address anti-personnel contamination in border areas;
- d. Updates regarding the deployment of 2,000 deminers by the Cambodian Armed Forces, with respect to gender balance in survey and clearance teams, timeline for recruitment, training and deployment;
- e. Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available in the Cambodian State Budget and national and international financing received to support implementation efforts;
- f. Updates regarding the structure of Cambodia's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Cambodia reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports, using the Guide for Reporting.