



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF APMBT

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 6-7 JUNE, 2018

- *Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,*

First of all, on behalf of Cambodian delegation I would like to express my sincere thanks and Congratulate to Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador, and Mozambique for the tireless efforts you have given as the Committee on Victim Assistance.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has established a very comprehensive legislative and policy framework to guarantee the rights and address the needs of People with Disability (PWD). Landmine/ERW victim assistance is integrated in the goal 18th of Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs). To tackle landmine/ERW Victim Assistance issue, Cambodian Mine Action Authority serve as coordination mechanism under the leadership of the Cambodian prime minister to mobilize resources and technical help such as transferring the victim to hospital, providing medical help, and financial assistance and psychological support for the family during the transition period. The mechanism is participated by inline ministries, subnational authority, Cambodian Red Cross and other NGOs, even the private sector. Such inclusive participation result in a very effective cooperation and deliver the effective result in providing service for landmine/ERW victim including rehabilitation of the victim after stage of recovery as well as providing the economic mean to restore their dignity and improve their quality of life

The Cambodian Mine/ERW Victims Information System (CMVIS) indicates that from 1979 to December 2017, 64,720 mine/ERW casualties in Cambodia were recorded, out of which 51,062 casualties caused by landmines equivalent to 79% of the total casualties and other 21% by ERW. Among these casualties, 19,758 (31%) persons were killed, 35,941(55%) were injured and 9,020(14%) were amputated. The annual casualty number has declined from 83 casualties in 2016 and 58 casualties in 2017 and there are 28 casualties in 2018. The current casualty number is still too high, and physical, psychological, socio-economic negative impacts are still critical and unacceptable. With the current magnitude of the contamination, landmines and ERW continue to cause unprecedented suffering, and hindered development.

- *Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,*

To provide effective assistance for landmine/ERW victims, the assessment of their needs and situation has been conducted. CMAA established 48 volunteer mine/ERW survivor networks for conducting the Quality of Live Survey (QLS) to targeting People with Disabilities (PwDs), in particular mine/ERW victims across the country. From 2012 to December 2017, the Quality Life Survey were conducted in 2,845 Villages across the 25 provinces, 23,526 persons with disabilities under which 7,903 person are female. Based on the findings, a series of activities were made to promote the rights and address the needs of survivors at both national and sub-national levels, for instance, continued to strengthen national survivor networks and organized forum on survivor rights and needs to ensure that mine/ERW survivors are informed of their rights and have access to effective support services.

The humanitarian demining activities in Cambodia were started in 1992, with National and International operators with many deminers and since 25 years operations (1992 to 2017) many accidents were happened during demining activities and caused many casualties by mines and ERWs, when they served as the deminers. In the resulted of 25 years operations 150 Ex-deminers (female 10) were recorded and 28 deminers (19%) were killed and 122 deminers (81%) were injured.

- *Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,*

The efforts of the government are supported by the Disability Right Initiative Cambodia (DRIC) program, a 5-years joint program by UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, with funding from the Australian government. The program supported the implementation of the National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018 in line with the Convention on the Right of People with Disability. Moreover, the National Mine Action Strategies (NMAS2018-2025) and the 3-Year Implementation Plan of NMAS (2018-2020) were designed to provide roadmap for addressing mine/ERW victims and indirect victim's assistance issues with smart indicators and specific activities through consultation with inline ministries and relevant stakeholders.

- *Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,*

The achievements in implementing the Maputo Action Plan have resulted in the gradual improvement in the status of mine/ERW survivors. Despite these achievements, Cambodia still faces many challenges such as the limitation of financial support, and human and technical resources. Therefore, continued support from all development partners is very important to address these challenges.

Taking this great opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our donors and partners, especially the Australian and Canadian Governments, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO for their invaluable collaboration and contribution towards achieving Cambodia's national responsibilities and international obligations to landmine survivors and other people with disability.

Thank you