



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL
MINE BAN CONVENTION
VIRTUAL FROM GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 22-24 JUNE 2021

H.E Chair, Distinguished delegations, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks for inviting us to share the progress made by the Kingdom of Cambodia in its efforts to fulfill its commitments to assist mine victims as agreed upon in the Oslo Action Plan. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Thailand, Sweden, Algeria, and Ecuador for the tireless efforts you have given as the Committee on Victim Assistance.

Excellences, Ladies, and gentlemen,

Cambodia is affected by mines and explosive remnants of war left by 31 years of conflict that ended in the 1990s. With the determined efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia and with assistance from the United Nations and the international community, Cambodia began its humanitarian mine action program in 1992.

The Victim Assistance is part of the large disability and rehabilitation sector, which has been delegated to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation, to provide physical rehabilitation and social reintegration services to all the Persons with Disabilities (PWD). However, as a state party to the APMBC, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) is tasked by the Royal Government of Cambodia to represent Cambodia to provide regular updates and progress reports on victim assistance.

As a State Party to the Convention, Cambodia committed to continuing working hard to improve the quality of life of victims of mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities. The Royal Government of Cambodia established various legal frameworks to support the mine and ERW victims as well as persons with disabilities. These include the law on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, the National Disability Strategy Plan 2019-2023, the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023, the Sustainable Development Goals 18th, and recently we have already adopted the 3 Years Implementation Plan (2021-2023) which followed the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025. These frameworks provide roadmaps in supporting mine/ERW victims as well as indirect victims.

The CMAA, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, plays its role as the coordinating mechanism to mobilize resources and technical assistance to support the

Mine/ERW victims and their families. Through this mechanism, relevant government ministries, subnational authorities, NGOs and the private sector actively participated in making victim assistance support services available. Those services include the provision of emergency assistance to victims (such as emergency response, short term support, emergency medical treatment), medium to long term physical rehabilitation, vocational training, job placement, and psychological and socio-economic support, occupational therapy, and addressing the rights and need of the People with Disabilities (for instance, sharing information about the services to victims, survivors, and their families).

Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,

Data collection is an effective way to identify challenges/problems, needs and solve any problem of the mine/ERW victims and persons with disability. In term of the data collection Cambodian Mine Victim Information System has recorded 65mine/ERW casualties in 2020, including 42men,16boys, 4 women, and 3 girls. Moreover, with the expanding quality of life survey(QLS), 3,673 persons with disabilities (896 Women's), including 423 mine/ERW survivors living in 282 villages, 66 communes, and 25 districts in 25 provinces in the country participated by using the new platform (Tablets) to collect the data and send those to make QA/QC, before the public as official national database and sharing to all stakeholders for seeking any support and necessary use. This survey is routinely conducted by our volunteer survivor networks.

Eleven physical rehabilitation centers, one spinal cord injury center, and three repair workshops distributed 18,198 prosthetic and orthotic products, including 9,993 assistive devices and 2,340 walking aids. Local authorities were also encouraged to collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities.

Although we have had effective data collection on mine/ERW victims, we are also updating the existing and developing to be modernized for sharing to stakeholders.

Cambodia organized various forums on disabilities to disseminate the law on protecting and promoting the right of persons with disabilities, guidelines, and other related policies. The needs of persons with disabilities were discussed.

Furthermore, to reduce social and economic inclusion barriers, physical rehabilitation centers, CMAA, and relevant stakeholders had organized many events like sports, training skills, referral to primary/secondary schools, small grants, and job placements.

Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite these achievements, Cambodia still faces many challenges, such as emergency support and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation services, physiotherapy, vocational training skills, community services, limitation of data collection from stakeholders in particular with the limitation of technical and financial support. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to call on all development partners to continue your financial assistance and technical support so that together Cambodia can address the problems.

And, knowing the nature and magnitude of the problems as outlined in this statement, would you please let us know what financial, human, and technical resources the international community can offer to support Cambodia overcome these challenges.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all donors and partners, especially the Implementation Support Unit of ABMBC, the Australian and Canadian Governments, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, Exceed Worldwide, ICRC, VIC, Humanity & Inclusion, Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation (SBC) and those whom we have not named here you're your invaluable collaboration and contribution to Cambodia in achieving national responsibilities and international obligations to landmine survivors and other Persons With Disabilities.

Thank you.