



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL
MINE BAN CONVENTION
VIRTUAL FROM GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 22-24 JUNE 2021

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to congratulate and thank Zambia as the Chair of this Committee for your tireless efforts to achieve multilateral outcomes. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the constructive contributions to this Committee of Norway, Belgium, and Sri Lanka.

Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Over the past 28 years, we have released an extraordinary 2,149 square kilometers of mine contaminated land that have been put into good use by the people and their communities. During operations, over one million anti-personnel (AP) mines, more than 25 thousand anti-tank mines, and over 2.9 million items of explosive remnants of war (ERW) were removed and destroyed.

The contributions of the women and men in the mine action sector to Cambodia's development have been significant. I am pleased to report that the number of mine and ERW casualties has declined from 4,320 in 1996 to 65 casualties in 2020. Land cleared has been put into productive use, allowing people to safely use their land for agriculture and other socio-economic purposes.

Thankfully, Cambodia is transitioning from being a least developed country to a lower-middle-income country and I am happy to say that the mine action has contributed to our country's development in many aspects.

Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

We are at a crossroads and the end is in sight. Though we have deemed safe a large amount of land, we are still faced with a significant challenge. There remain more than 726 square kilometers of anti-personnel landmine contaminated land across the country.

In addition to anti-personnel landmines, Cambodia is also contaminated by the presence of anti-tank mines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war. We have also completed the baseline survey activities in the remaining 73 districts.

Given the nature and extent of the remaining anti-personnel landmine contamination, the Kingdom of Cambodia has requested for the second extension under Article 5 of the Convention in the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo, Norway and we had granted to extend from 2020 to 2025.

Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Cambodia is strongly committed to the Maputo +15 Declaration and recently Oslo Action Plan with Oslo Declaration and we will intensify efforts to complete clearance to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has adopted the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025. This Strategy aims to achieve the vision of Cambodia as a land free of mines where the threat of explosive remnants of war is minimized, and human and socio-economic development takes place safely.

The Strategy outlines how Cambodia will address its mine and ERW problem with the aim of releasing all known AP mined areas by 2025. A new three-year Implementation Plan 2021-2023 will see concrete targets achieved, including releasing all prioritized mine-free villages. We realize that the Strategy is ambitious. However, we believe that we can meet our obligations by 2025.

We have brought the experiences and lessons learned over the past 28-years into our Strategy. This includes more effective planning and prioritization processes, the adoption of the mine-free village strategy, and the effective use of land release methodology. We understand our remaining problem, we are aware of where it is and we know that we have the expertise to release the remaining land.

Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

We will certainly continue to need resources and assistance from the international community to close this final chapter. We estimate that we will need more than 250 million dollars to remove the anti-personnel landmine threat between 2021 and 2025. To secure this amount, we have developed a Resource Mobilization Strategy that will target past and current donors, as well as engaging with emerging and non-traditional donors. We are also working with our private sector to seek their support.

More significantly, our Government has committed to contribute 10 percent in cash to funds channeled through the UNDP/CMAA managed Clearing for Results project.

I do hope that the international community would be encouraged by these commitments and continue supporting the Cambodian mine action sector.

Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors to the mine action sector who have generously supported Cambodia over the past 28-years, including GICHD, ISU, UNDP, Australia, Switzerland, Canada, Norway, USA, UK, Japan, Ireland, Korea, and Germany. We are also thankful for the support of emerging donors such as China.

I sincerely believe that together with our combined efforts, at this crossroads, we will be able to achieve Cambodia Mine Free 2025.

Thank you