



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**Nation Religion King**

**STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND 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 delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate Columbia, Germany, Japan, and Sudan for the leadership you have given as the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

I am honoured and privileged to address Cambodia's activities and achievements in relation to cooperation and assistance under the Convention.

Following 28-years of achievements, the Cambodian mine action sector is at a crossroads - having accomplished a lot and at the same time facing significant challenges to meet our obligations under the Convention and in line with the Oslo Declaration.

Since 1992, the international donor community has contributed some 464 million US dollars and the Royal Government of Cambodia has contributed more than 160 million US dollars. These generous supports led to the release of more than 2,149 square kilometres of contaminated land, removed and destroyed more than one million anti-personnel mines, over 25 thousand anti-tank mines, and some 2.9 million items of explosive remnants of war (ERW). The above funding also resulted in socio-economic support, peacebuilding, refugee resettlement, land use, risk reduction, victim assistance, poverty reduction, and more.

**Excellency, Lady and Gentlemen,**

Going forward, the Royal Government of Cambodia has approved the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 which aims to achieve a mine-free Cambodia to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

Overall, a budget of 377 million US dollars is further needed to achieve a mine-free 2025 and minimize the threat of ERW. This includes a need to secure at least 165 million dollars from 2021 to 2025 to meet our commitment to the Oslo Declaration and remove all known anti-personnel mines from Cambodia.

I would like to point out that, in 2018, the Government adopted to provide 10 percent in cash to support the UNDP/CMAA led Clearing for Results project. Channelling funds through the Clearing for Results project would allow us, CMAA, to utilize it in line with the National Mine Action Strategy and the annual work plans.

In a similar way, the Government will also provide 10 percent in cash and in-kind to match with any new funds provided bilaterally to operators to carry out the mine action operation.

For keeping mine clearance activities in the period of Global pandemic by Covid-19 and Cambodia has been affecting, CMAA were priorities work plan and using the Technical Working Group Meeting to address the progress, challenges, problems and needs to solve those issues and seeking more support from government and donor's fund.

**Excellency, Lady and Gentlemen,**

I strongly believe that these commitments underscore how serious Cambodia is in meeting its obligations.

The end is in sight in meeting our obligations under the Convention and allowing human and socio-economic development to take place free from the threat of landmines. Please help us close this final chapter.

We have not only received support but we have also shared the knowledge and expertise we gained over the past decades with other mine action programs globally. In this regard, Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) and demining operators have developed a stronger spirit of cooperation across various country programmes and have made many positive contributions to the development of mine action programs in other countries. In contrast, as current pandemic of Covid-19 which affected in global, most programs were delay and postpone.

I would also like to highlight the support Cambodian peacekeepers have made in the UN peacekeeping operations. As you are all aware, we were once supported by the UN blue berets. Currently, we are in a position to do so, by giving back to the international community or sharing the expertise we have gained over the years as part of UN peacekeeping operations in Syria, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Republic of Mali, the Central Africa Republic, Cyprus and Lebanon.

**Excellency, Lady and Gentlemen,**

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all interested States to visit our mine action activities in Cambodia. We would be delighted to host you and share our experiences.

We thank all the donors to the mine action sector who have generously supported Cambodia over the past 28-years. We are also thankful for the support of emerging donors and desire to welcome any new donors who wish to support the Cambodian mine action.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chair, Colombia, who has been a very strong partner in mine action, as well as Germany, Japan and Sudan for their significant work under this Committee.

**Thank you**