



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 22-24 MAY 2019

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and United Kingdom 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 26-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 Maputo Declaration.

Since 1992, the international donor community have contributed some 464 million US dollars and the Royal Government of Cambodia have contributed 160 million US dollars. These generous supports led to the release of 1,881 square kilometres of contaminated land, removed and destroyed of more than one million anti-personnel mines, over 24 thousand anti-tank mines and some 2.7 million items of explosive remnants of war (ERW).

The Royal Government of Cambodia has approved the **National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025** that aims to achieve a mine-free Cambodia 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 between from 2020 to 2025 to meet our commitment to the Maputo +15 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 Strategy and the annual work plans.

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

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. For example, in the last few years alone, Cambodia has exchanged its knowledge and experience in mine action with the delegation from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Colombia, Lao PDR, Angola, Vietnam, Tajikistan, Myanmar and Thailand.

I would also like to highlight the support Cambodian peacekeepers have made in the UN peacekeeping operations. As you are all aware that, 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.

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) has fully functioned since late 2017 to enhance cooperation among ASEAN and with the global mine action community. The Centre's permanent secretariat is located in the heart of Phnom Penh. All representatives of ASEAN countries are the members of the steering committee. This centre has been playing a critical role in the regional and global mine action. In this respect, Cambodia would like to appeal to the APMBC states parties, GICHD, other expert organizations and development partners to explore collaborative opportunities with the ARMAC in this humanitarian cause.

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 26-years, including UNDP, Australia, Switzerland, Canada, Norway, USA, UK, Japan, Ireland and Germany. We are also thankful for the support of emerging donors such as China. We desire to welcome any new donors who wish to support the Cambodian mine action.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chair, Sweden, who by the way has been a very strong partner in mine action, as well as Thailand, Turkey and United Kingdom for their significant work under this Committee.

Thank you