



CAMBODIA STATEMENT
AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
AT 10th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE AP MINE BAN CONVENTION
29 November to 03 December 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President;
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving us the floor. I am pleased to contribute to the discussion today and to share some aspects of Cambodia's efforts in fostering international cooperation and assistance as follows:

As you are aware, the scope of Cambodia's mine problem remains huge and the road towards completion of Article 5 is still in the distance. While our Government has regularly increased its contribution to the sector, Cambodia remains dependant on international cooperation and assistance. I need not elaborate how international cooperation and assistance have been vital to our progress and success in the sector thus far, but the lack of it would surely jeopardize our current momentum.

Cambodia acknowledges the need to optimize the resources made available by international and national stakeholders, and the Government continues to feature mine action as a key element of its national development policies and plans. In this regard, Cambodia has also recently approved a ten-year National Mine Action Strategy in support of Cambodia's overall development goals and the Article 5 Extension Request. By the end of that period, Cambodia aims to be free from the impact of mine and ERW.

A key element for the successful implementation of Article 5 obligations is the effective allocation of clearance resources to mine affected areas. The Baseline Survey currently undertaken will define, with accuracy, areas where mine clearance is required and the Land Release policy and standards will maximize the use of clearance assets in affected areas.

Successful implementation of Article 5 also requires that resources made available by development partners are allocated onto the priorities identified by the Government. Building on Cambodia's Aid Effectiveness Agenda, the Government is finalizing Partnership Principles for the implementation of the National Mine Action Strategy as a single framework for mine action related assistance. The Government hopes that all donors to Cambodia will commit to these principles, and increase alignment and harmonization of their assistance to the needs of the sector, thereby optimize development assistance and its effectiveness.

Finally, Article 5 challenges cannot be addressed without strong capacities in place to coordinate, regulate and monitor the implementation of the strategy. Cambodia is committed to a comprehensive and holistic approach to capacity development and welcome development partners' efforts in providing such support.

I also would like to mention that Cambodia also closely cooperates and assists mine action programmes of other states parties. In addition to the deployment of deminers as part of our contribution to the United Nations' Peace-keeping Operations in Sudan and Lebanon, Cambodia has recently hosted delegations from Afghanistan, Colombia, Laos, Mozambique, Thailand, and Viet Nam to share mine action experience and expertise.

Erith

As outlined in the Article 5 Extension Request, Cambodia needs sustained level of funding to achieve our obligation. Without an increase in the current level of funding, Cambodia is unlikely to mobilize resources required for 2010, and even less likely to obtain the 38% increase that has been foreseen to complete Article 5 obligations.

Therefore, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I shall thank all development partners for their support so far and appeal to all State Parties in a position to do so, to continue or even increase your contribution to help Cambodia meet the target by the deadline so that we can celebrate together a Cambodia free from landmines.

Thank you Mr. President.