



Cambodian Statement on the Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention (Clearing Mined Areas)

Cambodia is pleased to report on the progress made since Extension of its Article 5 deadline was granted by States Parties at the Cartagena Review Conference.

The Cambodia's National Mine Action Strategy was launched on April 4th 2011 at the occasion of the International Mine Awareness Day. The ten-year strategy aims to guide the sector to achieving the goals of the Extension Request and the Cambodia Millennium Development Goal 9 on demining and victim assistance. The strategy includes specific objectives and targeted actions to reduce casualties and eliminate the threat from landmines and ERW in order to contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth.

The NMAS defines a number of implementation measures such as the completion of the Baseline Survey by 2012, the promotion of Land Release Methodologies, enhanced Planning and Prioritization processes, strengthening the capacity to coordinate, regulate and monitor the sector. Furthermore, Cambodia signed Partnership Principles with seven Development Partners namely Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United Nations. These principles represent a common understanding for implementing the strategy to make mine action a driver of growth and poverty reduction, and for improving the effectiveness of mine action programmes and projects.

With regards Cambodia's commitment to identify the remaining challenge, I am pleased to report that Phase 1 was completed and Phase 2 is nearly complete. The total achievement up to now (November 2011) is 60 Districts (CMAC completed 30 Districts, HALO 25 Districts and MAG 5 Districts). Phase 2 of the BLS will be completed at the end of this year and Phase 3 will start immediately from January 2012. The Completion of Phase 3 by end of 2012 will be dependent on funding availability.

Results of the BLS until today show that 795.2 km² are suspected of containing anti-personnel landmines (areas classified as A1, A2 and A4) while 30.9 km² are suspected of containing only anti-tank landmines (classified as A3). Furthermore, 222.3 km² of land are suspected of containing Explosive Remnants of War (classified as B1) while 56 km² contain no verifiable mine threat (B2 classification). In total, a total of 1,048.5 km² will require further survey and clearance before they can be released.

The results of BLS Phase until today show the highest contaminated provinces are Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Preah Vihear (respectively 321 km², 252.2 km² and 229.2 km² of suspected mine/ERW areas).

Outcomes to date from the first 23 districts from Phase 1 provided an accurate status of the remaining contamination facing Cambodia. The survey produced polygons of areas suspected to contain landmines/ERW that are classified according to the type and level of threat. Each polygon has been entered into the CMAA's database, superseding all previous contamination in the database. However, it's too earlier to calculate how much the suspected contamination has been reduced as a result of the

Baseline Survey. An analysis of how much land has been released as a result of the BLS will be conducted once all the three phases of BLS are completed sometime in 2012 and the Extension Request work plan will be reviewed accordingly.

It is important to note that areas identified through BLS remain suspected until the exact contamination has been confirmed through further technical survey. In addition, BLS suspected areas may contain APM, ATM and/or ERW. As such, BLS data can not be compared with the estimated 648.8 square kilometers of APM affected areas requiring full clearance indicated in the Extension Request.

Where the BLS has been completed, the survey findings are being used by operators for planning, land releasing and information management at the CMAA.

The guidelines for the Planning and Prioritization of mine clearance which were recently approved foresee that Baseline Survey results, together with other data such as casualty data, are at the center of planning and prioritization processes.

Even though, 60 districts had been completed, some villages could not be surveyed at this stage due to accessibility issues. The CMAA will ensure that all villages suspected to be contaminated are fully covered by BLS activities and will update to States Parties accordingly.

CMAS on LR: The national mine action standards on land release (CMAS-15) has been developed and approved earlier this year. One operator already developed its own SOP in line with this standard in consulting with GICHD and NPA and started field activities since the beginning of May.

- As the Land Release is just starting to be fully applied, it is too early to say how much productivity rates have increased. In late September, 2011, Cambodia with the support from GICHD has conducted a 3 days Regional workshop, in which 22 countries participated to learn and share experiences.
- Since its inception land released through the implementation of land release methodologies have been safely used.
- With the support of the Clearing for Results project, the CMAA has been able to promote the application of land release methodologies in mine clearance activities. By the end of the year, Clearing for Results will have released nearly 10 square kilometers of suspected land through land release methodology.

The CMAA has also been working hand-in-hand to increase the number of accredited platoons from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF). Early 2011, 3 more mobile platoons from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces were accredited bringing to 5 the total number of mobile platoons that have been accredited. Under Clearing for Result-II project, the National Peace Keeping, Mine and ERW Center has been contracted to carry out clearance in Pailin Province. Such clearance will be recorded in the CMAA's database. These assets will contribute to assist Cambodia in meeting its obligations under the Convention within the next 10 year and contribute to the clearance productivity in the future.

After a successful testing period, the CMAA Database Unit, with technical support from NPA and GICHD, has now deployed IMSMA NG as the information management system for mine action in Cambodia. IMSMA will allow all different data-sets be linked and mapped together. All data related to Land

Release, Mine/ERW accident/casualty data since 2005 to up now as well as Quality Assurance, MRE and Post Land Release Monitoring will be entered into the system. The detail will be introduced during the lunch time side event on Friday 2nd December.

Planning and Prioritization Guidelines: The planning and prioritization guidelines that were revised consultation with key stakeholders were officially approved by the CMAA on 02 September 2011 or implementation in 2012. The guidelines aim to integrate planning and prioritization process of mine clearance with the commune development and investment plans. In addition, priority setting criteria will be established at two levels:

First, the CMAA will lead an analysis of accident/casualty data, BLS data in cooperation with PMAC/MAPU, demining operators and key stakeholders to identify most affected communities for clearance planning the following year. With the results from the analysis, the CMAA will develop a Planning Instructions and issue to the local authorities and demining operators to guide them toward the most impacted communities. This is a top-down approach.

Second, with the Planning Instructions, the authorities and communities are to identify clearance tasks within their communities based on their local requirements, BLS data and proposed clearance workplans for the following year. This is a bottom up approach.

If implemented correctly, these priorities criteria will help targeting clearance resources to the most impacted communities and help the communities to clear contaminated lands to support their community development priorities.

However, if community identifies that clearance is required outside of BLS polygon, then BLS team must first conduct a survey on the area to verify whether or not the area is contaminated. If the BLS result confirmed that the area is not contaminated/suspected area then no demining asset is allowed to be deployed.

Work plans: At the provincial level, the MAPU monitor yearly clearance achievements against the work plans to some extent and this vary from province to province. Since 1992-September 2011, Cambodia cleared a total of 707,409,614 M2 contaminated areas, found and destroyed 921,668 APM, 21,436 ATM and 2,161,407 UXO. For the period of our ER gained (2010 up to September 2011), cleared 169,535,684 M2, found and destroyed 61,491 APM, 1,488 ATM and 254,875 UXO. These data represent progress as reported by operators to CMAA Data Base Unit and may therefore include areas that have been cleared outside a BLS polygon.

In 2011, a majority of humanitarian clearance assets have been deployed in the 21 most affected districts. Based on the Guidelines being approved, the CMAA in consultation with key stakeholders will narrow this down to community (commune or village) level based on accident/casualty data, BLS data etc. in order to better target clearance assets on the most affected communities in order to achieve Goal 1 and Goal 2 of the National Mine Action Strategy (2010-2019).

In 2010, the Cambodia Mine Action Sector raised USD 23.3 million for mine clearance. To achieve the 2012 targets spell out in the ER, the sector will need to mobilize at least 26.7 million.

Finally, on behalf of the RGC, allow me to express my deep gratitude to all development partners and Mine Action Stakeholders, which, without their support, Cambodia would not have been able to achieve such great achievements. Your continuous support will ensure that our targets will be achieved within the timeline and we will celebrate together a Cambodia free from the threat of anti-personnel mines by 2019.

Thank You!