

Press Release



Cambodian officials finalise details for global landmines meeting

Geneva, 5 September 2011 – A high-level delegation from Cambodia is in Geneva today for meetings with the diplomatic community and non-governmental organisations to finalise details for the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, also known as the Ottawa Convention.

H.E. PRAK Sokhonn, President-Designate of the 11MSP, who serves as the Minister Attached to the Prime Minister of Cambodia and Vice-President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, convened the informal preparatory meeting for the 11MSP. The Meeting of the States Parties, which will take place in Phnom Penh from 27 November to 2 December, will see the return of the international landmine movement to its roots.

“The 11MSP will be a special and unique milestone in the life of the Convention as it is returning to where it emerged, from human tragedy like ours, two decades ago,” said H.E. PRAK Sokhonn. “While great progress has been made, this is a tragedy that still lingers today, and possibly will, for years to come.”

The Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties in Cambodia serves as a window for the world to witness first-hand the reality and impact of landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

“This is an opportunity to reflect on the efforts carried out – by a variety of actors during the past two decades - to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. At the 11MSP we can collectively agree and decisively fulfil our respective commitments and obligations for a mine-free world,” said H.E. PRAK Sokhonn.

Requests for mine clearance extensions that have been submitted by Algeria, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Eritrea will be considered at the 11MSP in Cambodia.

Approximately 1,000 representatives of States and international and non-governmental organisations are set to gather in the Cambodian capital for the 11MSP.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

The AP Mine Ban Convention was adopted in Oslo in 1997, opened for signature in Ottawa the same year and entered into force in 1999.

To date 156 States are parties to the Convention, 152 of them no longer hold stocks. Almost 44 million mines have been destroyed by the States Parties. 34 of 50 States that at one time manufactured anti-personnel mines are now bound by the Convention’s ban on production. Most other parties have put in place moratoria on production and / or transfers of mines.

Demining has resulted in millions of square metres of once dangerous land being released for normal human activity.

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For interviews or more information regarding any aspect of the Convention kindly email: ISU@APMineBanConvention.org or contact Laila Rodriguez at +41 (0) 22 906 1656. Connect with the Convention through our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) or [Twitter](#).