



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

Cambodia's Update on Assisting the Victim

December 4, 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Taking this great opportunity, on behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the President for inviting us to give an update on efforts to promote the rights and assistance to landmine and other ERW survivors in the broader context of our work for all persons with disabilities. Our efforts are based on the principles and understandings adopted in the context of the Convention. This meeting is not only providing a valuable opportunity for Cambodia to give the update on our efforts in the field of disability but also to learn from updates of other affected States.

Since our last report to this meeting since May on progress Cambodia has made with respect to ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), we would like to inform that the bill has passed through the national parliament, the Senate, and then on 20 September 2012, the bill received the Royal Assent. We are now in the process of finalising the domestic process and preparing our instrument of ratification for submission to the UN. We look forward to joining the ranks of the CRPD States Parties very soon!

Cambodia continues to implement the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities, including Landmine/ERW Survivors which has been extended to the end of 2013. A new process will begin soon to develop a National Disability Strategic Plan for the period 2014-2018 which will aim to reflect and address all issues relating to survivors and other persons with disabilities through enhanced efforts and concrete actions. The plan will be developed through a participatory process involving all relevant actors and will be endorsed by the National Disability Coordination Committee ensuring that a high level of national ownership is taken over its implementation. Parallel to developing the plan we will establish a mechanism to monitor the implementation of this plan

from the beginning! We look forward to participating in the VA Experts' Parallel Programme this week to learn more about the development of monitoring mechanisms and then applying that learning at our national level.

In addition, Cambodia has been actively involved in the implementation of the last "Asia and Pacific decade of persons with disabilities" and the development of the new decade for the period 2013-2022. We have worked in close collaboration with both national governments and civil society at all levels. The government is a signatory to the Incheon Strategy for the new decade which provides the Asia and Pacific region, and the world, with the first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals. I would like to highlight that presentations by my government during high level meetings spoke of Cambodia's commitment to survivors of landmines and other explosive remnants of war and the challenges faced in affected countries. Our interventions contributed to the Incheon Strategy including a specific reference to "persons with disabilities who are victims of landmines". In addition, Goal 10 states that "In post-conflict areas, such challenges as landmines and remnants of war continue to exacerbate the occurrence of disability and undermine livelihoods" adding that "the Decade provides an opportunity for international cooperation, with multi-sectoral dimensions, to overcome such challenges, and support effective implementation."

As we meet here in Geneva, another important national conference is taking place in Phnom Penh which aims to promote disability-inclusive development, implementation of the CRPD, and the recommendations of the 2011 World Report on Disability. A wide range of stakeholders including government ministries and agencies, organisations of persons with disabilities, international organizations, NGOs, and other service providers are participating in the conference.

Despite the great achievements, the Royal Government of Cambodia also faces some challenges such as the limitation of financial support, and human and technical resources to continue to promote the implementation of both international and national mandates to benefit its citizen, including survivors and other persons with disabilities.

I would like this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all donors and partners, especially AusAID and UNICEF, for your invaluable collaboration and contributions to the Royal Government of Cambodia and the DAC in order to fulfil our national and international obligations.

Thank you very much