



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

Reflecting on how to enhance international cooperation and assistance and
to increase resource mobilization

**Statement by Cambodia
Thursday 5th December 2013**

Mr. President;

May I congratulate you on your election as 13th MSP President and we believe that under your leadership our convention will successfully reach its common goal of mine free world.

Since the beginning of its mine action program, Cambodia has benefited from the opportunity to engage in international cooperation and assistance within its own border and beyond. International financial and material assistance has enabled Cambodia to address its landmine and ERW problems with remarkable success as well as to develop capacities of national authority and operators. Till now, around 1,000 KM² have been cleared from contaminated areas, found and destroyed millions of mines and ERW.

In the past we have shared detailed information on the cooperation and assistance Cambodia has received. Today, we focus on the cooperation and assistance that Cambodia has to offer.

Having learnt from other partners and practical experience, Cambodia has become a source of expertise. It is only sensible that where expertise is available, that skills be transferred directly between two parties in similar circumstances. So far, Cambodia has shared its knowledge and experience in the areas of mine action management and victim assistance with delegates from South America, Africa, Asia and Europe and for the 2013 with six mine-affected countries namely Laos, Libya, Lebanon, Myanmar, Vietnam and Afghanistan. Cambodia stands ready to continue this knowledge and experience sharing whenever it is approached.

Beside its National success in Mine Action, from 2006 to 2013, Cambodia thru National Peace Keeping Force Mine and ERW Clearance (NPMEC) has sent 512 personnel to Sudan & Lebanon under UN Peace Keeping Mission which successfully cleared 71,554,655 M² from contaminated land to the end state land found and destroyed 3,203 APMs, 368 ATMs, and 26,313 ERW for those two countries.

In addition to its experience in mine action, operationally and managerially, Cambodia has experience in communicating with development partners through a forum called Technical Working Group on Mine Action, where government and development partners discuss strategic issues.

According to the recent BLS completion report, around 1,915 KM² of mine/ERW contaminated land remain to be cleared or released thru Non-Technical survey, Technical Survey and full clearance in which 440 million USD will be required. Due to the global financial constraint, Cambodia experiences some shortfall of fund around 20 million USD a year. This shortage has definitely undermined intensifying mine clearance efforts to achieve our annual clearance target stipulated in Cambodian Article 5 ER. It's required first and foremost to have resources made sufficiently and sustainably available by both the host Government and Development Partners. Second, the effective allocation of clearance resources to the most mine affected areas is indispensable. Moreover, the new land release methodologies applying in Cambodia have made double in productivity. Along with this great clearance achievement, the MRE is also play an important role thus significantly reducing the casualty rate from more than 4000 to below 200 in 2012 and hopefully to more lower in the years to come. Lastly, the national ownership of the mine action programs and the national capacity needs to be in place and continuously built so as to ensure that all mine action activities and resources are effectively and efficiently utilized and managed.

Recognizing Cambodia's active role in Mine Action at National and International Level, I would like to inform you, Mr. President, that the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) now agreed among ASEAN States and its' Headquarter will be shortly established in Cambodia and I therefore, welcome the statement made by Thailand and Indonesia on this regard. On behalf of the Royal Government and Cambodian people, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the past and present development partners in particular Switzerland who recently provided Cambodia with the amount of 3 million USD to complement the gap of its Clearance for Result Project thus had contributed to building Cambodia's capacity to enable it to work toward fulfilling its mine action obligations and to share its knowledge and experience with other mine-affected countries. The burden of mine action is too huge for Cambodia to shoulder alone and therefore, Cambodia known as one of the most mine affected countries in the world, continues to need the support from our development partners in the years to come.

Thank you!