



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT BY CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

THE 16th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO MINE BAN TREATY
VIENNA, AUSTRIA 17-21 DECEMBER 2017

- ***Excellency Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi, the President of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties***
- ***Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,***

First, on behalf of Cambodian delegation I would like to express my sincere thanks and congratulate Columbia, Belgium, Croatia and Ecuador for the tireless efforts you have given as the Committee on Victim Assistance

In Cambodia, Victim Assistance (VA) is part of the large disability and rehabilitation sector, which has been delegated to Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation, to provide physical rehabilitation and socio-reintegration services to all People with Disabilities (PWD) in Cambodia. The Cambodian Mine/ERW Victims Information System (CMVIS) indicates that from 1979 to present, 64,710 mine/ERW casualties in Cambodia were recorded, out of which 51,059 casualties caused by landmines equivalent to 78.90% of the total casualties and other 21.10% by ERW. Among these casualties, 19,757 persons were killed, 35,933 were injured and 9,020 were amputated. Even though the annual casualty number has declined from 211 casualties in 2011 to 83 casualties in 2016 and 48 casualties so far in 2017; the current casualty number is still too high, and physical, psychological, socio-economic negative impacts are still critical and unacceptable. With the current magnitude of the contamination, landmines and ERW continue to cause unprecedented suffering, and hindered development.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has established a very comprehensive legislative and policy framework to guarantee the rights and address the needs of People with Disability (PWD). Landmine/ERW victim assistance is integrated in the goal 18th of Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs). To tackle landmine/ERW Victim Assistance issue, Cambodian Mine Action Authority serve as coordination mechanism under the leadership of the Cambodian prime minister to mobilize resources and technical help such as transferring the victim to hospital, providing medical help, and financial assistance and psychological support for the family during the transition period. The mechanism is participated by inline ministries, subnational authority, Cambodian Red Cross and other NGOs, even the private sector. Such inclusive participation result in a very effective cooperation and deliver the effective result in providing service for landmine/ERW victim including rehabilitation of the victim after stage of recovery as well as providing the economic mean to restore their dignity and improve their quality of life.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

To provide effective assistance for landmine/ERW victims, the assessment of their needs and situation have been conducted. Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) undertook an impact assessment on the living conditions of injured ex-deminers and continue to conduct Quality of Life Survey of mine survivors and other persons with disability in collaboration with the Cambodian Campaign to Ban Landmines and other disability stakeholders. Based on the recorded data from the beginning of 2015 to July 2017, 19,284 persons with disabilities were surveyed and 4,628 persons with disability caused by landmine/ERW under which 361 persons are women. Based on the findings, a series of activities were made to promote the rights and address the needs of survivors at both national and sub-national levels, for instance, continued to strengthen national survivor networks and organized forum on survivor rights and needs to ensure that mine/ERW survivors are informed of their rights and have access to effective support services.

The efforts of the government are supported by the Disability Right Initiative Cambodia (DRIC) program, a 5-years joint program by UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, with funding from the Australian government. The program supported the implementation of the National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018 in line with the Convention on the Right of People with Disability. Moreover, the National Mine Action Strategies (NMAS2018-2025) is designed to provide roadmap for addressing landmine/ERW victim assistance issues with smart indicators through consultation with inline ministries and relevant stakeholders.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Cambodia is committed to continue working hard to improve the quality of life of survivors, through the efforts to uphold their rights and meet their needs. For the next 5 years, Cambodian Mine Action Authority will continue to participate in the national coordination mechanism on disability and monitor implementation to ensure that the rights and needs of survivor are being addressed, in the broader context of disability. In addition, Cambodian Mine action Authority continues to promote the survivor's right by expanding the quality of life survey, support survivor networks, monitoring the needs of mine victims, provide emergency assistance, and disaggregate data on survivor assistance

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The achievements in implementing the Maputo Action Plan have resulted in the gradual improvement in the status of landmine/ERW survivors. Despite these achievements, Cambodia still faces many challenges such as the limitation of financial support, and human and technical resources. Therefore continued support from all development partners is very important to address these challenges.

Taking this great opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our donors and partners, especially the Australian government, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO for their invaluable collaboration and contribution towards achieving Cambodia's national responsibilities and international obligations to landmine survivors and other people with disability.

Thank you