



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

THE 16th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO MINE BAN TREATY

VIENA, AUSTRIA 17-21 DECEMBER 2017

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

First, I would like to express my gratitude and congratulate the Netherland, Canada, Switzerland and Uganda for the tireless efforts you have given as the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

Cambodian mine action has been supported significantly from the international community since 1992. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), together with our partners we have successfully responded to the humanitarian and development imperatives by returning hundreds of thousands of hectares of safe land to communities. The RGC and Development Partners acknowledge that the progress has been made in reducing the threat from landmines and explosives remnants of war (ERW), which has led to a drastic reduction in number of casualty. However, we recognize that the landmines/ ERW threat continue to present challenges. Based on latest comprehensive baseline survey data, the estimated remaining contaminated area is around 1,970 km².

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Partnerships and mutual cooperation in humanitarian mine action in Cambodia have been instrumental for program implementation in tackling the landmine and ERW issue to save lives and support economic development. The partnership principle is common understanding shared by the RGC and the Development Partners for preparing and implementing the National Mine Action Strategy to make mine action a driver of growth and poverty reduction for improving the effectiveness and coordination activities and interventions. The development partners shall support RGC's ownership and leadership in the formulation and implementation of mine action policy and strategy. The development partners shall also support RGC to lead aid coordination at all levels and thereby recognize Cambodia Mine Action Authority leadership role in coordinating, monitoring and regulating the whole mine action sector. The RGC will also support development partners in fulfilling their commitment by communicating in timely fashion information that may affect development partners' program and projects.

Recognizing the necessity of cooperation and assistance at the regional level as well as the contribution to the global mine action, the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) has been established to enhance cooperation among ASEAN and with the global mine action community, which is located in Phnom Penh City. This centre will play a critical role in the regional and as well as in global mine action arena. In this respect, Cambodia would like to appeal to the APMBC member

states, GICHD, other expert organizations and development partners to support the ARMAC in this humanitarian cause.

In the spirit of cooperation, Cambodia will continue to participate in capacity building South-South cooperation initiative and also third country training. This could include exchanges to provide training, host study tours and provide policy and organizational information with other mine action organizations in the region and elsewhere. In 2017, Cambodia has exchanged the knowledge and experience with delegates from Iraq, Tajikistan, Lao, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, and USA in term of various skills such as demining technology application, operation, survey, MRE/VA program and database management.

Cambodia is an active participant in international peacekeeping and mine clearance operations under the auspices of the United Nations. Cambodia is committed to the UN peacekeeping efforts. More than two decays ago, Cambodia received the UN Blue Beret on their peacekeeping mission. Since 2006, Cambodia has dispatched 4,769 troops to take part in UN peacekeeping missions in a number of countries that are hot spots in the world like Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Republic of Mali, the Central African Republic, Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Eradicating landmines/ERW as well as the suffering they have caused is every nation and their citizen's duty as well as a global effort. Therefore, continued participation from all development partners and demining operators remain the key factor in supporting Cambodia to achieve our national mine action strategy which aims to release all known mined areas by 2025 and to mitigate the residual risks caused by landmines/ERW in Cambodia after 2025.

Finally, also would like to take this opportunity to the thank the panel for giving us the floor and extend my profound gratitude to the APMBBC ISU and state parties and other development partners for the continuous support to Cambodia's mine action.

Thank you