



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
17TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN
CONVENTION
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 26-30 NOV 2018

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to congratulate and thank Switzerland as the Chair of this Committee for your tireless efforts to achieve multilateral outcomes. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the constructive contributions to this Committee of Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands.

Mr. Chair,

The Royal Government of Cambodia submitted an extension request under Article 5 in 2009. This came into effect in 2010 and we have been making great strides in meeting our obligations since then.

Over the past 25 years, we have released an extraordinary 1,691 square kilometres of mine contaminated land that have been put into good use by the people and their communities. During operations, over one million anti-personnel (AP) mines, more than 24,600 anti-tank mines and over 2.7 million items of explosive remnants of war (ERW) were removed and destroyed.

The contributions of the women and men in the mine action sector to Cambodia's development have been significant. I am pleased to report that the number of mine and ERW casualties has declined from 4,320 in 1996 to just 49 casualties at the end of September 2018. Land cleared has been put into productive use, allowing people to safely use their land for agriculture and other socio-economic purposes.

Thankfully, Cambodia is transitioning from being a least developed country to a lower middle-income country and I am happy to say that mine action has contributed to our country's development in many aspects.

Mr. Chair,

We are at a crossroads and the end is in sight.

Though we have deemed safe a large amount of land, we are still faced with a significant challenge. There remains 968 square kilometres of anti-personnel landmine contaminated land across the country. In addition to anti-personnel landmines, Cambodia is also

contaminated by the presence of anti-tank mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. We are also currently conducting baseline survey activities in 73 districts partially surveyed or un-surveyed, to collect information to fully ascertain the remaining problem.

Given the nature and extent of the remaining anti-personnel landmine contamination, the Kingdom of Cambodia will be seeking another extension under Article 5 of the Convention in 2019.

Mr. Chair,

This request to extend our obligations has been very carefully considered.

Cambodia is strongly committed to the Maputo +15 Declaration and we will intensify efforts to complete clearance to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

In December 2017, our Government approved the *National Mine Action Strategy 2018 to 2025*.

The Strategy aims to achieve the vision of Cambodia as a land free of mines where the threat of explosive remnants of war is minimised, and human and socio-economic development takes place safely.

The Strategy outlines how Cambodia will address its mine and ERW problem with the aim of releasing all known AP mined areas by 2025. A three-year Implementation Plan from now until 2021 will see concrete targets achieved, including releasing all prioritised mine-free villages.

The Strategy also links to Cambodia's adoption of an 18th Sustainable Development Goal on mines and ERW and is also linked to our National Socio-Economic Development Plan.

We realise that the Strategy is ambitious. However, we believe that we can meet our obligations by 2025.

We have brought the experiences and lessons learned over the past 25-years into our Strategy. This includes more effective planning and prioritisation processes, the adoption of the mine-free village strategy and the effective use of land release methodology. We understand our remaining problem, we are aware where it is and we know that we have the expertise to release the remaining land.

Mr. Chair,

We will certainly continue to need resources and assistance from the international community to close this final chapter.

We estimate that we will need at least 265 million dollars to remove the anti-personnel landmine threat between 2020 and 2025. To secure this amount, we have developed a Resource Mobilisation Strategy that will target past and current donors, as well as engaging with emerging and non-traditional donors. We are also working with our private sector to seek their support.

Recognising our country's status as a lower middle-income country, our Government has committed our own funds. This ladies and gentlemen, should be seen as a strong signal of Cambodia's commitment to the Maputo +15 Declaration.

Our Government has committed to contribute 10 per cent in cash and in-kind to match any new bilateral funds to the mine action sector.

More significantly, our Government has committed to contribute 10 per cent in cash to funds channelled through the UNDP/CMAA managed Clearing for Results project.

I do hope that the international community would be encouraged by these commitments and continue supporting the Cambodian mine action sector.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors to the mine action sector who have generously supported Cambodia over the past 25-years, including UNDP, Australia, Switzerland, Canada, Norway, USA, UK, Japan, Ireland and Germany. We are also thankful for the support of emerging donors such as China.

Mr. Chair,

I sincerely believe that together with our combined efforts, at this crossroads, we will be able to achieve Cambodia Mine Free 2025.

Thank you very much.