



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**Nation Religion King**

**Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the AP Mine Ban Convention**

**Assisting the Victims**

**Statement by Cambodia**

**Delivered by Mr. Thong Vinal, Executive Director, Disability Action Council,  
On behalf of Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)  
and Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)**

**27 November 2008**  
**Geneva**

Mr. President, Co-Chairs, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief update on progress in Cambodia in the area of victim assistance.

On Thursday, 9 September, the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities, including Landmine/ERW Survivors for the period 2008-2011 was finalized by the Landmine Victim Assistance Steering Committee. Currently the document is in the process of translation into Khmer language in order to submit to the Prime Minister for adoption. The plan covers the six key elements of victim assistance.

The Plan of Action has given prominence to the achievements in disability sector activities in Cambodia. It also highlights the challenges that lie ahead for the Royal Government. And importantly, it has provided a unique opportunity to understand how the concept of victim assistance can be integrated into policies and programs for the disability sector as a whole.

The plan of action was based on wide consultations with disability service providers such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Disability Action Council and numerous other agencies, organizations, and importantly, persons with disabilities. Cambodia used the framework adopted by the States Parties at the First Review Conference and the tools provided by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance to develop the national action plan, with financial support provided by AusAID. The plan of action is available for those who want a more detailed overview of the current status of victim assistance and Cambodia's SMART objectives.

The Disability Action Council, with support from the ARC and the Implementation Support Unit, is in the process of developing a monitoring mechanism so that, once approved, progress in implementing the National Plan of Action and achieving the objectives can be assessed and reported more comprehensively. As out-going Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and in preparation for the Second Review Conference,

Cambodia is also in the process of developing its report on the Status of Victim Assistance to provide greater clarity on efforts to achieve the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan.

To conclude, I will highlight some of the progress that has been made in Cambodia towards achieving objectives to address the rights and needs of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

- The DAC is developing Terms of Reference for the Physical Rehabilitation Committee.
- MoSVY with support from DAC, the Physical Rehabilitation Committee and sub-committee are reviewing national quality standards for monitoring and evaluation of Physical Rehabilitation Centres.
- Upgrade training for physiotherapists from the Physical Rehabilitation Centres has commenced for 37 trainees.
- The Trans-cultural Psychosocial Organization has initiated short training courses in psycho-social care for District Social Workers in order to increase their basic skills in dealing with persons with disabilities.
- In March 2008 the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport published its Policy on the Education for Children with Disabilities and a Master Plan for Education for Children with Disabilities.
- Cambodia, ranked number 3 in the world in Standing Volleyball for persons with disabilities, has been actively involved in the formation of the International Standing Volleyball Foundation.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners who have been providing generous support to the disability sector since the very beginning. My special thanks goes to AusAID, USAID, UNICEF, and other national and international NGOs for your technical and financial support and services. Without your continued support no progress will be possible.

Thank you