



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT

**Cambodian Mine Action
and Victim Assistance Authority**

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1 October 2009

His Excellency Ambassador Jürg Streuli,
President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties
C/O Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty
Geneva, Switzerland

Your Excellency,

We wish to thank you for your letter dated 25 September 2009 and for providing us with an opportunity to review the first draft analysis of Cambodia's Extension Request prepared by the States Parties mandated to analyze Article 5 Extension Requests. Allow me also to reiterate Cambodia's commitment and availability to collaborate with you and the States Parties as required during this process.

With regards the first draft analysis, Cambodia is pleased to read that the Analyzing Group recognized the efforts undertaken to revise the Extension Request based on the clarifications that had been submitted by yourself on 25 May 2009. We would like however to comment on a few elements that might help the Analyzing Group in completing its analysis.

First, with reference to the absence of a demining plan appended to the Extension Request (see para 11 of the draft analysis), Cambodia would like to reiterate that it is in the process of developing a National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) which aims to be completed by the end of the year. This NMAS will then be implemented through the development of annual demining workplans starting from 2010. Indeed, Cambodia intends to develop in 2010 the "2011 demining workplan" which will be based on the following inputs: results of the Baseline Survey; national, provincial and community priorities; operators' strengths and capacities.

With regards the methodology used to derive clearance estimates (see para 11), we would like to clarify that the clearance estimate as part of the Extension Request workplan is derived from current productivity rates with a 2% productivity increase per year. These estimates are conservative and clearance achievements could be further increased with RCAF involvement and greater application of land release methodologies. All clearance tasks are being selected through a community based process involving communities, operators and provincial authorities. In addition, from 2010, Cambodia intends to give renewed focus to those areas totaling the largest numbers of victims.

As part of the development of the annual demining workplan, Cambodia will review annually the funding requirements associated with the demining needs and aims for an appropriate response from the national budget (see para 14). The Royal Government of Cambodia will continue supporting the four National mine action entities such as CMAA, CMAC, RCAF and the Police.

With reference to Cambodia's inability to clarify what remains to be done (see para 18), we would like to clarify that Cambodia has made significant efforts during the last ten years to identify all known mined areas through the undertaking of various survey activities, such as the L1S and other technical surveys. However, due to the extent and complexity of the problem facing Cambodia, experience has shown that the data on the remaining contamination needs to be constantly updated. The last ten years have been focused on reducing the casualty rate and the huge reduction is testament to the fact that Cambodia has successfully targeted its resources and managed the problem. Furthermore, as indicated in the Extension Request's workplan, Cambodia has clearly indentified what remains to be done in order to achieve Article 5 obligations such as the undertaking of a Baseline Survey and the enhanced use of Land Release methodologies.

With regards efforts in mobilizing resources of the analysis (see para 19), Cambodia would like to further indicate that Cambodia is well advanced with regards donor coordination. Cambodia's Mine Action Technical Working Group is responsible for promoting good coordination between the RGC and its development partners in order to enhance effectiveness and impact in the mine action sector. Within that framework and in support of the upcoming NMAS, Cambodia has started analyzing the effectiveness of the aid allocation to mine action so far with a view of identifying areas of improvement in coordination and harmonization. The National Mine Action Strategy will include key principles and guidance on coordination arrangements and incorporates resource mobilization requirements that will promote aid effectiveness in the sector which will allow Cambodia move towards programme-based approaches in managing its resources.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our commitment to regularly provide an update to States Parties at meetings of the Standing Committees and at Review Conferences about the results of the Baseline Survey, progress in developing and implementing national clearance plans, and overall progress in implementing Article 5. Once a clearer picture of the remaining problem becomes available from the Baseline Survey, Cambodia commits to revise its Extension Request work plan to take into account the updated mine contamination and latest achievements. Cambodia will provide updates on the milestones as well for the period 2009-2012 and beyond based on the revised Extension Request workplan.

We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to your encouragement and support and would like to convey to the President of the Ninth Meeting of States Parties the renewed assurance of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely, 

Chum Bun Rong
Advisor to Prime Minister
Secretary General of the CMAA