



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

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured and privileged to address the Kingdom of Cambodia's activities and achievements in relation to cooperation and assistance under the Convention.

The Cambodian mine action sector is at a crossroads following 25-years of achievements. We have accomplished a lot and at the same time, we still face a significant remaining challenge to meet our obligations under the Convention and in line with the Maputo Declaration.

Over the past-25 years, the international donor community contributed some 464 million US dollars. This, and the 160 million US dollars the Royal Government of Cambodia contributed, led to the release of 1,691 square kilometres of contaminated land and the removal and destruction of more than one million anti-personnel mines, over 24 thousand anti-tank mines and some 2.7 million items of explosive remnants of war (ERW).

The end is in sight in meeting our obligations under the Convention and allowing human and socio-economic development to take place free from the threat of landmines.

In December 2017, the Government approved the *National Mine Action Strategy 2018 to 2025* that aims to achieve a mine-free Cambodia by 2025.

Overall, a budget of 406 million US dollars is needed to achieve mine-free 2025 and minimize the threat of ERW. This includes a need to secure at least 265 million dollars between 2020 and 2025 to meet our commitment to the Maputo +15 Declaration and remove all known anti-personnel mines from Cambodia.

I would like to point out that, in July 2018, the Government committed to provide 10 per cent in cash to support the UNDP/CMAA led Clearing for Results project. Channelling funds through the Clearing for Results project would allow us, CMAA, to direct it in line with the National Strategy and the annual work plans.

In addition, the Government will also provide 10 per cent in cash and in-kind to match any funds provided bilaterally to operators.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I believe that these commitments show how serious the Kingdom of Cambodia is in meeting its obligations.

The end is in sight. Help us close this final chapter.

We have not only been receiving support. We have brought the experience we gained over the past 25-years to other mine action programmes globally. We have established relationships with programmes such as Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Colombia, Lao PDR, Angola, Vietnam, and Thailand. We hope to both share and learn from these relationships as well as develop a stronger spirit of cooperation across these various programmes.

I would also like to highlight the support Cambodian peacekeepers have made in UN peacekeeping operations. As you are all aware, we were once supported by the UN blue berets. Now that we are in a position to do so, we are giving back to the international community by sharing the expertise we have gained over the past 25-years as part of UN peacekeeping operations in Syria, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Central Africa, Cyprus, and Lebanon.

We are also proud to host the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre which was established in 2007 in Phnom Penh. It is now fully operational and able to institutionalise the sharing of experiences with other mine/ERW affected countries in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all interested States to visit our mine action activities in the Kingdom of Cambodia. We would be delighted to host you and share our experiences.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chair, Canada, who by the way has been a very strong partner in mine action, as well as Algeria, Sweden and Thailand for their significant work under this Committee.

Thank you very much.