



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

19 MSP TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
Virtual from The Hague City, The Netherlands, 15-19 Nov 2021

H.E. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me congratulate Colombia, Germany, Japan, and Sudan for the leadership of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

Following 29-years of achievements, the Cambodian mine action sector is at a crossroads - having accomplished a lot but at the same time facing significant challenges to meet our obligations under the Convention in line with the Oslo Declaration.

Since 1992, the international donor community has contributed some 464 million US dollars to the mine action sector in Cambodia. In addition, the Royal Government of Cambodia has also contributed more than 160 million US dollars. This generous support has led to the release of more than 2,287 square kilometres of contaminated land, removed and destroyed more than one million anti-personnel mines (1,114,209 APM), over 25 thousand anti-tank mines (25,787 ATM), and some 2.9 million items of explosive remnants of war (2,948,746 ERW). The above funding also resulted in socio-economic support, peace building, refugee resettlement, land use, risk reduction, victim assistance, poverty reduction, and more.

With the knowledge and skills gained from the last 29 years in carrying out humanitarian mine action, the Cambodian mine action community have broadly shared lessons learned and successful initiatives with other mine action programmes globally. We have hosted study visits, conducted trainings and made presentations in various mine action events. Through these activities, Cambodia has developed a stronger spirit of cooperation across various country programmes and have made many positive contributions to the development of mine action programmes in other affected countries including the States Parties to this convention.

We have proudly seen Cambodia transition from a nation receiving peacekeeping support, to one that has now deployed 6,557 Cambodian peacekeepers – including 338 women – to UN peacekeeping operations to Syria, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Republic of Mali, the Central Africa Republic, Cyprus and Lebanon from 2006 to 2020. Cambodia is ranked number 2 in the ASEAN for sending the highest number of female peacekeepers to carry out these operations.

H.E. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cambodia's National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 aims to achieve a mine-free Cambodia to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

Further to the existing level of support through our dedicated and valued development partners, the Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to providing 10 percent in cash and in-kind support to match with any new funds provided bilaterally to carry out mine action operations.

However, an additional budget of 333 million US dollars is further needed to achieve a mine-free 2025 and minimize the threat of ERW. This includes a need to secure at least 225 million dollars from now to 2025 to meet our commitment to the Oslo Declaration and remove all known anti-personnel mines from Cambodia.

This presents a very large funding gap and an immense challenge to Cambodia's ability to reach a mine free 2025. In this regard, I would like to call for the continued and additional support from the Implementation Support Unit and the States Parties to assist in addressing this funding shortfall.

H.E. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia to all development partners who supported and continue supporting mine action in Cambodia. I also look forward to welcoming any new development partners who wish to support the achievement of the vision "Cambodia Mine Free 2025".

Finally, I would like to thank the Chair, Colombia, who has been a very strong partner in mine action, as well as Germany, Japan and Sudan for their valuable work under this Committee.

Thank you