



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
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,

Please let me begin by extending my congratulations to the Netherlands for their Presidency over this Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to share mine action efforts in pursuit of obligations as agreed upon in the Oslo Action Plan.

Since humanitarian demining began in Cambodia in 1992, Cambodia has released 2,287 square kilometers of mine and explosive remnants of war contaminated land, thanks to the concerted efforts of the government, development partners, mine action operators and other stakeholders. Clearing this land has not only saved lives, with the number of mine and ERW casualties reduced from 4,320 in 1996 to 65 in 2020, but has also released the land back to the people for productive use, enabling agriculture, housing, infrastructure development and other socio-economic activities to take place.

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

The three priority themes of the Presidency; Capacity Building, Innovation, and Inclusion, resonate with Cambodia's mine action efforts as we continue to strive for a mine-free 2025.

The Royal Government of Cambodia, in their commitment to national ownership and capacity building, has placed mine action in the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023, Rectangular Strategy Phase IV and as the 18th Goal of the Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030. The Royal Government, represented by the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, has also executed many key legal, institutional and operational frameworks including the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) 2018-2025 with the vision of "mine-free Cambodia 2025". National mine action standards are adopted, and our valued national and international operators adhere to their implementation with rigorous quality assurance and quality control mechanisms in place. While in the Convention's traditional spirit of cooperation, South-South Cooperation efforts will be scaled up from 2022 to enhance technical cooperation and promote knowledge sharing to countries with similar historical realities and development challenges.

With over 774 square kilometers of anti-personnel mine contaminated land remaining to clear, Cambodia is increasing land reclamation and non-technical survey efforts as a key part of our land release methodology and are reshaping our resource mobilization strategy to apply innovation in how we will engage with current and prospective donors.

Recently, we have piloted the mine-free village mechanism in Kep, a coastal province in south-western Cambodia. The objective of the mine free village mechanism is to expand the avenue for Cambodian mine action community to mobilize additional financial resources from development partners, private companies, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to clear a contaminated area, village by village, to make it mine-free so that the risk and associated fear of mine accidents is removed, and community livelihood and development activities can take place to their full potential safely. This mechanism is not designed to undermine but complement the existing contribution of the traditional donors to assist Cambodia in its efforts to achieve the mine-free Cambodia by 2025. In short, this mechanism gives donors a different lens to see clearly how their contribution is connected to the 2025 vision – a piece of the puzzle – as a mine-free village will lead to a mine-free country. Following the successful pilot in Kep, CMAA is expanding this best practice to other mine contaminated villages in Cambodia.

In pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and the imperative to Leave No One Behind, Cambodia's mine action sector supports inclusiveness in all its forms. Planning and prioritization for land release operation starts at the village level. Contextualised mine risk education activities and community-based mine risk reduction are implemented. Gender is being mainstreamed at institutional, operational and beneficiary levels through our Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan 2021-2025. And victim assistance activities have been carried out through data collection and analysis which promotes needs-driven, people-centred service provision of emergency and continuing medical care, rehabilitation, assistive and mobility devices, psychological and psycho-social support, social and economic inclusion, and inclusive access to education.

Of course, these efforts would not be possible without our deeply committed development partners, and I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and deep appreciation for their invaluable contribution of some 464 million US dollars to mine action in Cambodia since 1992. While the Royal Government of Cambodia has also contributed more than 160 million US dollars; to reach a mine-free Cambodia by 2025, 225 million US dollars is required. To this end, we ask that development partners, especially those States Parties who have the capacities to assist, join us to continue our journey to realize the 2025 vision.

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

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

Thank you