



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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**STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
TWENTIETH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL
MINE BAN CONVENTION
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA (UNOG), SWITZERLAND
On 21-25 Nov 2022**

**H.E. Chair, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Introduction**

First of all, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to express my sincere thanks for inviting us to share the progress made by Cambodia in its efforts to fulfill its commitments to assist mine/ERW victims as agreed upon in the Oslo Action Plan. I would also like to congratulate Algeria, Ecuador, Italy, and Uganda for their achievements as the Committee on Victim Assistance.

History

Cambodia's landmine problem is the result of a protracted sequence of internal and regional conflicts that affected the country from the mid-1960s until the end of 1998 under the Win Win Policy which our Cambodian Prime Minister created. The nature of landmine and ERW contamination in Cambodia is highly complex. Mines and ERW have caused an unacceptable number of military and civilian casualties and have hindered national development. 65,004 casualties have been recorded by CMVIS from 1979 to October 2022. In 2022 by October, 40 Mine/ERW casualties were recorded. 18 casualties were caused by mines and 22 casualties by ERW. 10 people were killed, 23 people were injured and 7 people were amputated. 27 casualties were men, 12 casualties were boys under 18 years old and 1 casualty was woman.

**Excellency Chair, Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,
Obligation**

As a State Party to the Convention, Cambodia worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of survivors. Moreover, the CMAA plays its roles to strengthen coordination, to mobilize resources and technical assistance to support the Mine/ERW survivors and their families. Through this mechanism, relevant government ministries, subnational authorities, NGOs and the private sector actively participate in victim assistance activities. Those activities include the provision of emergency response assistance and ongoing medical care to victims, medium to long-term, rehabilitation, psychological and socio-economic support, vocational training, job placement and addressing the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.

**H.E. Chair, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Achievement**

- In 2021, 25 survivor network volunteers conducted the Quality of Life Survey (QLS) of 2,280 mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in 140 villages, 30 Communes, and 23 Districts in 3 provinces. 842 were women and 565 were mine/ERW survivors.

- 11 physical rehabilitation centers, 1 spinal cord injury center, and 3 repair workshops provided services to 14,748 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors.
- 190 children with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors, were sent to study at primary school, 136 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors, were trained at the vocational training centres, 34 persons with disabilities were receiving training on how to manage a small business from Physical Rehabilitation Centres. In addition, the community-based rehabilitation services are available in 25 provinces and they provided 7,876 persons with disabilities with the following services and support and CMAA organized a disability and mine survivor's forum at the sub-national level in order to discuss the needs of those mine/ERW survivors. 256 mine/ERW survivors (135Womens) and people with disabilities participated in the forum.

H.E. Chair, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, Challenges

Despite these achievements, Cambodia faces several critical challenges. First, Cambodia is under-resourced in emergency support and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation services, psychological and psychosocial support, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, vocational training skills, and community services. Moreover, the capacity and cooperation of VA stakeholders in data reporting remains a pressing issue. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to call for technical and financial assistance from all development partners so that together we can overcome these challenges and ensure that all members of our community can live with dignity and equality.

Away forward,

Cambodia's commitments to improve the quality of life of mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities are underscored by the efforts I have just highlighted. These have been reassured from year to year. For instance, Cambodia will collaborate with the ISU to organize the global victim assistance conference at the end of next year.

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all development partners, especially the Implementation Support Unit of this convention, Australia, Canada, Exceed Worldwide, Humanity & Inclusion, ICRC, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation (SBC), UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, and VIC, and those whom might not be named here, for their invaluable collaboration and contribution to Cambodia in undertaking its obligations to mine/ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities.

Thank you.