



Geneva, 11 May 2023

**All Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Relevant international and non-governmental organisations**

**Re: Third Global Conference on the Rights of Survivors of Anti-Personnel Mines
and Other Explosive Ordnance**

Excellencies, Esteemed Colleagues,

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, the Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and the Implementation Support Unit of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Stockpiling, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* have a pleasure to inform on **the Third Global Conference on the rights of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities, which will take place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 17 to 19 October**. As all States have a role in integrating persons with disabilities in their societies on an equal basis with others, we are inviting all States, whether States Parties to the Convention or not, as well as relevant international organisations to participate.

The Convention is the cornerstone of the international effort to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. Its preamble records the wish of the States Parties “to do their utmost in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration of mine victims.” This has been translated into the legal obligation and human rights-based approach known as *victim assistance* (VA). This concept first appeared in 1997 in the text of Convention and has since served as the basis for how other international instruments address this obligation.

The Global Conference will build on efforts carried out to implement the Oslo Action Plan, the work of the Committee on Victim Assistance, and previous conferences held in Colombia in 2014 and in Jordan in 2019. Further, it will be held with the understanding that guaranteeing the rights of mine- and other explosive ordnance-survivors, requires integration into broader national policies, plans, and legal frameworks related to human and disability rights including under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as health, education, employment, development, and poverty reduction efforts.

The Global Conference will be an opportunity for delegations in Geneva and New York, as well as for colleagues in capitals representing relevant ministries, development or disability rights agencies, or mine action authorities, to connect with associations of survivors and other persons with disabilities, international and non-governmental organisations including operators and service providers to jointly,

Think. Explore. Learn. Inspire.

The Global Conference comes at an important time – halfway between the 25th anniversary since the Convention’s adoption and the 2024 Review Conference which Cambodia seeks to host and preside over. We strongly encourage States and relevant organisations to identify their appropriate representatives to participate in the Global Conference at their earliest convenience. Thanks to support provided by the European Union, full sponsorship may be awarded to experts from more than thirty countries.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to present you the assurance of our highest consideration,

H.E. IN Dara
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom
of Cambodia to UNOG

H.E. Lotte KNUDSEN
Ambassador, Head of Delegation
Permanent Delegation
of the European Union to UNOG

Juan Carlos RUAN
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AP Mine Ban Convention
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