

Initial thoughts and ideas for the Fifth Review Conference

MR President,

I would like to take this opportunity to once again express the interest of Cambodia in presiding over and hosting the Fifth Review Conference in Cambodia in 2024.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is the cornerstone of our efforts to address the unacceptable humanitarian consequences of anti-personnel landmines. My country, as all of you well know, has witnessed the devastating effect of anti-personnel mines. Thankfully, it has also seen the positive impact of the Convention's implementation on mine affected communities throughout Cambodia. In this regard, the universalization and effective implementation of the Convention has been a key priority for Cambodia since the Convention was adopted in 1997.

We believe the Fifth Review Conference will be an important milestone in fulfilling the objectives of the Convention and we would be honored to lead this effort going forward with your assistance and input.

I look forward to sharing with you a more concrete vision for the next Review Conference in the near future. We have benefitted from paying close attention to our discussions over the course of the intersessional meetings. It is important for us to learn more about your priorities so that we can, together, identify some key deliverables for the Review Conference and shape the way forward and the new action plan for the period of 2024-2029.

Should the State Parties welcome our presiding and hosting over the Fifth Review Conference, our aim is to use the Fifth Review Conference to bring renewed political attention to the Convention and to strengthen its implementation , globally but also in the region. This Convention came into being as a result of close cooperation between affected countries, governments who were concerned about the humanitarian aspects of the use of landmines, civil society and international organizations. It is this partnership approach that we will work to galvanize during our presidency and in the lead to the Fifth Review Conference. I would like to assure you that the door of Cambodia is always open and I invite all of

you to approach me or my team on any issue related to the implementation and universalization of the Convention.

Though we are still early on in the planning phase, we already see some key issues we expect will shape our work towards and beyond the Review Conference. A continued focus on implementing, to the further extent possible by our 2025 aspirational goal. We are conscious of all the progress we have to do in this regard and that a mine free world does not mean a world without landmine victims and survivors, and we will incorporate the need for continued victim assistance into our work.

New use of landmines including of an improvised nature is presenting a challenge to the norm that was established by this Convention. We are reminded that it was concern for the indiscriminate impact on civilian lives which brought about this Convention in the first place. Together we will have to consider very carefully what can be done to continue to efforts of the German presidency to continue finding ways to best address the impact of these weapons on affected communities.

I look forward to participating in the work of this Convention under Ambassador Thomas Göbel `s very able leadership and to continuing our dialogue with each and every one of you about the Fifth Review conference of the Mine Ban Convention.

Once again we welcome your support to Cambodia and we look forward to launching the road to the Fifth Review Conference with all of you in the near future.

Thank you.