



5 December 2023

The Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva of States Parties and States not party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Interested international and non-governmental organisations

Excellencies, dear Colleagues,

It is a great honour and privilege for Cambodia to have been designated President of Fifth Review Conference - *the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World* - of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction*. We recognize the important task we have ahead of us and are thankful to the States Parties for entrusting this responsibility to Cambodia. We are also thankful for the work carried out by my predecessor, H.E. Thomas Göbel, Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament, for his work as President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP).

We are looking forward to working with all of you, representatives of States Parties, other States and interested organisations, on the road to the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit where we will culminate the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan and agree upon the course for the next five year of implementation of our Convention.

Cambodia is fully committed to leading an inclusive and consultative process towards the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit and to achieve progress in the implementation of our Convention. As shared during the 21MSP, the following areas of implementation will be priorities for our presidency:

- **Universalization:** Our aim is to ensure the continuity of a coordinated approach to promoting the universalization of the Convention. We believe that having more States join the family of States Parties is crucial for strengthening the norm against the use of anti-personnel mines.
- **Implementation of Article 5:** Survey, clearance, mine risk education and risk reduction are paramount to ensuring no future victims and alleviating current suffering in mine-affected communities. Efforts must be intensified to heighten awareness of the population regarding both historical and new contamination within the framework of the Convention.
- **Assistance to Victims:** Delivering on the promise made to victims is non-negotiable. Cambodia looks forward to sharing its experience to ensure continued progress. Strengthening national responses and forging partnerships with sectors better placed to support long-term sustainable aid is crucial.

The hosting of a successful Siem Reap-Angkor Summit is not only the responsibility of Cambodia but of all States Parties. Part of ensuring the success of the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit is to collectively ensure that the Convention's finances stay on a sustainable footing and that financial matters do not hamper the task we set out to achieve under this Convention. In this regard, it is important that we ensure that assessed contributions for the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit are paid as soon as possible and that States Parties consider voluntary contributions to the work of the Implementation Support Unit and the Convention's informal Sponsorship Programme.

We also take the opportunity of attaching a list of key dates in 2024 following our discussions during the 21MSP.

Together with my colleagues here in Phnom Penh and in Geneva, led by H.E. Dara In, Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations in Geneva, I look forward to working with all of you in the lead up to the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit. I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Ly Thuch  
Senior-Minister and First Vice President of the  
Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)

President of the Fifth Review Conference "the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World"

## **Important Dates 2024**

- **March 1** – Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Convention
- **February /March** (date to be confirmed) - Ninth Pledging Conference
- **March 31** - Deadline for the submission of requests for extension under Article 5
- **April 4** - International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
- **April 30** - Deadline for all States Parties to submit Article 7 transparency reports
- **June 18-20** –Intersessional Meetings, Geneva
- **June 21** – First Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference, Geneva
- **September 18** – Second Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference, Geneva / Twenty Seventh Anniversary of Adoption of the Convention
- **November 25-29** – Fifth Review Conference
- **December 3** - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- **December 3 and 4** - Twenty-Seventh Anniversary of the Signing of the Convention