

# KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA Nation Religion King

# STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE GENEVA BUILDING IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND On 17-20 June 2025

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

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to share our progress in fulfilling the victim assistance commitments under the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

### Action #30

Firstly, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) continues to play a central role in coordinating and providing technical support for mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) victim assistance. By working in close collaboration with government ministries, local authorities, NGOs, and the private sector, the CMAA leads efforts encompassing emergency response, medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial and socio-economic support, vocational training, and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

# Action #31

Moreover, Cambodia has reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to victim assistance through the adoption of the Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance and the National Disability Strategic Plan 2024–2028. Meanwhile, the National Guideline on Victim Assistance is currently being developed and is expected to be finalized by the end of 2025, thereby providing a comprehensive framework to guide coordinated and effective support.

### Action #32

As of December 2024, a total of 65,086 mine/ERW casualties have been recorded, including 49 new casualties that year. In addition, the 2024 Quality of Life Survey, conducted across 304 villages in three provinces, reached 2,182 persons with disabilities, including 1,181 mine/ERW survivors to better understand their evolving needs.

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

### Action #33

In 2024, the CMAA and the Cambodia Red Cross provided emergency support to 49 new mine/ERW survivors. Furthermore, 27,809 persons with disabilities received medical services, with 12,455 physiotherapy assessments and 98,005 physiotherapy treatment sessions delivered across 11 rehabilitation centers.

### Action #34

In order to improve access to services, the CMAA is developing a Referral Mechanism and service mapping directories. These tools were reviewed by stakeholders during the National Victim Assistance Workshop held on 10–11 June 2025, thus ensuring inclusive input and validation.

### Action #35

Additionally, a total of 26,988 persons with disabilities, including 8,630 mine/ERW survivors, received physical rehabilitation services. The national network of Physical Rehabilitation Centers produced and repaired 26,280 assistive devices, including prosthetics, orthotics, and mobility aids.

# Action #36

In partnership with the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), CMAA delivered psychosocial support training to 73 participants, thereby strengthening community-based mental health support. Moreover, 1,890 individuals benefited from peer counseling and psychosocial consultations.

### Action #37

This year, inclusive education, vocational training, and economic empowerment programs supported mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities. Key outcomes included the enrollment of 468 children with disabilities in school, vocational training for 156 individuals, and small business training for 58 participants. Through referral networks, 92 individuals accessed additional services; 28 small businesses were established, and 22 people secured employment. The Maybank Foundation's entrepreneurship training reached 1,058 persons with disabilities, including 560 mine/ERW survivors, thus empowering them with essential business skills. Furthermore, inclusion was also promoted through sports events and mobility assistance, including the distribution of 65 bicycles.

### Action #38

Meanwhile, the National Committee for Disaster Management developed an inclusive preparedness and protection action plan, ensuring the needs of mine/ERW survivors are addressed in times of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters. This plan aligns with international humanitarian and human rights obligations.

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# Challenges

Despite notable progress, Cambodia continues to face significant challenges in supporting mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) survivors, particularly in securing adequate resources for emergency response, medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, vocational training, and data coordination. Physical rehabilitation services are especially at risk, with several centres facing imminent closure or reduced operations due to funding shortfalls. Continued investment is urgently required to

sustain not only rehabilitation but also psychosocial support, vocational opportunities, and survivor-tracking systems, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Therefore, continued technical and financial support from development partners remains essential to meet the needs of survivors and persons with disabilities.

# **Way Forward**

Looking ahead, Cambodia remains unwavering in its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities. Accordingly, we will continue to strengthen our policies, programs, and partnerships to ensure inclusive, rights-based, and sustainable assistance.

# In conclusion,

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all development partners—particularly the Implementation Support Unit, Australia, Canada, Exceed Worldwide, Humanity & Inclusion, ICRC, NewZealand, the Republic of Korea, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, and others—for their vital contributions to our victim assistance efforts. Your continued collaboration is deeply valued and instrumental in building a more inclusive society where all individuals, regardless of disability, can fully participate and thrive.

Thank you.