



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

3

Statement by Cambodia on “Article 5 Implementation”

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 19-20 May 2016

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to express my gratitude for giving me the floor to report the progress of mine action activities in Cambodia.

The legacy of Cambodian landmine and ERW stems from the decades of regional and internal conflicts. From 1992 to 2015, Cambodia has cleared 1,414 km² of contaminated land for housing, agricultural, infrastructure, and other social and economic development. Cambodian Mine Victim Information System (CMVIS) shows that, 64,579 Cambodians have been injured or killed by both landmines and ERW from 1979 to 2015. Annual casualty rate was at peak in 1996 with the record of 4,320 casualties and has been drastically brought down to 111 casualties in 2015 thanks to the land release coupled with the mine risk education.

Despite our remarkable achievements, more than 100 of our innocent citizens continue to be injured and killed by those indiscriminate weapons every year and thousands still live in the vicinity of contaminated lands. With this, Cambodia still faces a considerable challenge to clear the remaining 1,640 km² of contaminated land. According to our latest projection, Cambodia will need around 361 million USD to complete the Article 5 obligation. This does not include survey in the Eastern part of the country, which is planned to complete over 60 more districts by 2017. They are believed to be mainly contaminated by ERW.

Mr. President and esteemed colleagues:

The Cambodian mine action programme is currently operating according to the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) 2010-2019 which has been recently reviewed by the independent external consultant to assess Cambodia’s current progress towards achievement and to consider the requirements to complete the country’s APMBBC obligations. The review report issued in April 2016 highlights mixed results on the implementation of the NMAS. Some Goals are perceived to have been more successful than others. CMAA and UNDP are discussing the responses to the findings and recommendations of the review team. With these responses, Cambodia will decide what action to be taken.

Meanwhile, one obvious finding as agreed by Cambodian mine action community is that the elimination of APM contamination by 2019 is out of reach. Furthermore, changes affecting the mine action sector are multi-dimensional domestically and globally. Their dynamic nature will impact mine action operations as well as the sector performance going forward. It is necessary therefore, to have a clear understanding of these influencing contexts and the sector’s evolving needs to help generate in order to appropriately address them. In this connection, Cambodia is developing the new NMAS 2017-2025 to meet the goals to the fullest extent possible by 2025 which is also in line with the Maputo +15 which has been endorsed by Cambodia in 2014.

Mr. President and esteemed colleagues:

The RGC recognized that partnerships have enabled important achievements over the last decades in the mine action sector. Active participation from all development partners and especially demining operators will remain essential in achieving the goals of the mine action strategy until 2025. Cambodia has benefited greatly from sustained and significant contributions from the international community to fund mine action activities since 1992 and this level of support, approximately USD 30 million per year, has been substantially contributing to saving lives from land mine and ERW.

To this end, please allow me to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to the APMBC and GICHD for the priceless contribution to the global mine action. Cambodia could have made all these achievements in mine action without the assistance of the United States of America, Japan, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, Norway, UNDP and other Development Partners. We would like to thank the People's Republic of China who has recently supported the mine action in Cambodia as well as the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre and committed further support to Cambodian mine action.

Thank you.