



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance

“The availability of assistance and procedures to obtain it”

**Statement by Cambodia
Friday, 25 May 2012**

Co-Chairs, Excellencies, distinguished delegates

I am honoured to share Cambodia’s experience on the issue of cooperation and assistance. Since the beginning of its mine action program, Cambodia has benefited from the opportunity to engage in international cooperation and assistance within its own borders and beyond. International financial and in kind assistance in the form of human capital, equipment, research and development provided by the international community has enabled Cambodia to address its landmine and other ERW problems with reasonable success. International cooperation and assistance has been essential to develop capacities for clearance and victim assistance and to establish a platform which has empowered Cambodia to meet future challenges.

In the past we have shared detailed information on the cooperation and assistance Cambodia has received. Today, I will focus on the cooperation and assistance that Cambodia has to offer.

Having learnt from other partners and gone through decades of mine action implementation, Cambodia has become a source of expertise and experience, no longer relying solely on direct technical input from donor countries or/and development partners.

Cambodia has gone on to share its expertise and knowledge to assist other States in their efforts to enhance their own programmes through exchange visits, third country training and knowledge sharing programs. Evidence of this type of cooperation can be seen in the tripartite knowledge sharing arrangement with Colombia and Lao Peoples’ Democratic Republic, which is supported by Japan. In 2011, a third South-South Cooperation arrangement was implemented whereby training was provided to staff of the Nepalese Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction. Cambodia, together with its partners, has also hosted successful regional and international workshops, including on the implementation of the Land Release methodology. In these recent years, we have also hosted several visits of delegations

from Afghanistan, Angola, Eritrea, Peru, Thailand and in partnering with Handicap International, Cambodia will soon to host another visiting delegation from Iraq for an exchange of Mine Risk Education. In the area of victim assistance, in February and in March this year, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority hosted delegations from South Sudan and researchers from the Centre for International Stabilization and Recovery at James Madison University and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to share and document our experiences on this important issue. We also support other mine-affected countries by sending our demining troops to the UN Peace Keeping Operations, since the beginning of 2006, Cambodia has dispatched more than 500 deminers to Sudan and Lebanon.

These examples demonstrate that there are many avenues that mine-affected countries can lend support to each other. Initial progress has been encouraging but this is only the beginning. There is a potential for greater working partnerships, however, continued commitment and support are needed in order to ensure that these relationships are established and maintained.

In addition to our experience on coordination, humanitarian demining, mine risk education, victim assistance and data collection, Cambodia has good experience in integrating all aspects of mine action into development strategies and plans. Mine action is part of the National Strategic Development Plan and demining and victim assistance is the ninth Cambodian Millennium Development Goal. Cambodia also has good experience to share in the area of resource mobilisation. Cambodia has put in place a mechanism where we can regularly communicate the concerns and needs to the donor community through the Technical Working Group on Mine Action. Through the TWG a project appraisal process has been introduced which assists the donor community in identifying projects that are in accordance with Cambodia's strategic plan for mine action.

The cooperation and assistance that Cambodia has to offer is available to any affected State that can benefit from our knowledge and experience. This assistance could include exchange visits or the despatch of local expertise to other affected states. We welcome approaches from other affected States to identify opportunities for cooperation and assistance.

To conclude, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the donors and partners who have contributed to building Cambodia's capacity and who continue to support efforts to address our obligations to clear landmines and assist the victims. While Cambodia is ready and willing to increase our engagement in South-South cooperation to share our knowledge and experience with others, we cannot do this alone. Cambodia continues to need the support of our donors and other partners at the national level.

Thank you