



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Social Reintegration
Update on challenges and work remaining in applying the victim assistance
aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan at the national level**

**Presentation by
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Co-Chairs, ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased to present you the challenges in the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan in the area of victim assistance.

Cambodia is one of the most affected countries in the world, having the highest numbers of registered landmine and other ERW casualties. Cambodia has a long journey to build the necessary infrastructures and human capacities.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has paid attention to address the disability issue through promoting the integration of persons with disabilities including survivors into society and providing them with the opportunity to meet their basic needs especially to ensure respect of their rights such as the right to live, the right to education, the right to employment and the right of accessibility etc. We work to provide full and equal opportunity to persons with disabilities to participate in all spheres in society in order to build one society for all, barrier-free, free from discrimination and based on human rights.

So far, remarkable achievements have been made, but Cambodia still faces some challenges in relation to the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities including landmine/ERW survivors such as:

- Vocational training- The Vocational Training Centres have not been functioning due to a lack of funding and human resource. Additionally, international partners and many non-governmental organizations are not focusing enough on this area yet.
- Micro-credit and income generation- the Persons with Disabilities Foundation is just established, so that it cannot provide support to projects related to the promotion of the quality of life of survivors and other persons with disabilities. Some NGOs still do not prioritize micro-credit and income generation, instead they are focusing on capacity building and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Inclusive education- The Policies on Education for Children with Disabilities and the training curriculum are not effectively implemented nationwide. The reasonable accommodation such as: accessibility, assistive devices and learning facilities for children with disabilities are not

adequately provided at public and private schools. Higher education is still a barrier for persons with disabilities.

- Employment opportunities- the Sub-decree on Quota System for Persons with Disabilities is not effectively implemented in both the public and private sector. The promotion of employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour markets, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, mainstreaming and returning to employment is still limited.

In addressing the socio-economic inclusion aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan, Cambodia has set the following objectives:

- Continue developing and implementing national policies and framework
- Strengthen and expand service provision
- Encourage and support the participation and initiative of NGOs and the private sector regarding vocational training, micro-credit and income generation, inclusive education and employment opportunities.

To conclude, there is a need for greater attention and care to promote inclusion to ensure that survivors and other persons with disabilities enjoy equal access to opportunities that will promote their social and economic well-being. We have to ensure that all activities of the Government and other actors, including service providers and donors, contribute to the achievement of the overall objectives of disability-related plans and policies in line with the Cartagena Action Plan.

Thank you