



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

Statement by Cambodia
Special session on International Cooperation and Assistance
25 June 2010, Geneva

Madame President;

Thanks for giving us the floor. I am pleased to contribute to the discussion today and to share some aspects of Cambodia's efforts to foster international cooperation and assistance in accordance with the 5 discussing points as follow:

As you know, the scope of Cambodia's mine problem remains immense and the road towards completion of Article 5 is still far to come. While the Government has regularly increased its contribution to the sector, Cambodia remains dependant on international cooperation and assistance.

Acknowledge the need to optimize the resources made available by international and national stakeholders, the Government continues to feature mine action as a key element of its national development policies and plans. In this regard, Cambodia has also recently developed a ten-year national mine action strategy in support of Cambodia's overall development goals and the Article 5 Extension Request. By the end of that period, Cambodia aims to be free from the impact of mine and ERW.

A key element for the successful implementation of Article 5 obligations is the effective allocation of clearance resources to mine affected areas. The Baseline Survey currently undertaken will define with accuracy areas where mine clearance is required and the Land Release policy and standards will maximize the use of clearance assets in affected areas.

Successful implementation of Article 5 also requires that resources made available by development partners are allocated onto the priorities identified by the Government. Building

on Cambodia's Aid Effectiveness Agenda, the Government is drafting Partnership Principles for the implementation of the National Mine Action Strategy as a single framework for mine action related assistance. The RGC hopes that ALL donors to Cambodia will commit to these principles, and increase alignment and harmonization of their assistance to the needs of the sector.

Finally, Article 5 challenges cannot be addressed without strong capacities in place to coordinate, regulate and monitor the implementation of the strategy. Cambodia is committed to a comprehensive and holistic approach to capacity development and welcome development partners' efforts in providing such support.

I also would like to mention that Cambodia is also a provider of cooperation and assistance to other mine action programmes. In addition to the deployment of deminers to the Peace-Keeping operations in Sudan, Cambodia has recently hosted delegations from Colombia, Mozambique and Vietnam to share mine action experience and expertise.

As outlined in the Article 5 Extension Request, Cambodia needs sustained levels of funding to achieve our obligation. Until now Cambodia has received around 23 million USD out of the 30 millions foreseen for 2010. Without an increase of current level of funding, Cambodia is unlikely to mobilize resources required for 2010, and even less likely to obtain the 38% increase that has been foreseen to complete Article 5 obligations.

Therefore, on behalf of Cambodia Government, I shall thank all development partners for their support so far and appeal to all State Parties in a position to do so, to continue or even increase your contribution to help Cambodia meet the target by the deadline and that we can celebrate together a Cambodia free from landmines.

Thank you Madam President.