

**Meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's  
Standing Committee on Victim Assistance  
December 3, 2013, Geneva, Switzerland  
Statement by Cambodia**

Co-Chairs, ladies and gentlemen,

Taking this great opportunity, on behalf of Cambodian Delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Co-Chairs for inviting us to share the specific progress made by Cambodia on efforts to fulfil commitments stipulated in the Cartagena Action Plan on victim assistance.

This also an opportunity for Cambodia to share the good practices in the implementation of the victim assistance and learn such experiences from other affected States. The following update has been prepared in response to the questions posed to us by the victim assistance Co-Chairs.

Co-Chairs, ladies and gentlemen,

According to the census conducted in Cambodia in 2008, the number of Persons with Disabilities is 192,538 which equivalent 1.44% of whole population; and 56.3% are males, 43.7% are females, Children with Disabilities from age 0-18 years is 17.72%. Persons with Disabilities caused by mine and ERW is 64,224 which equal to 33.36% if compare to the total PWD in Cambodia. Regarding information on challenges faced in data collection of PWD, the government now anticipates that the next general population census will conduct in year 2018 which will provide specific data of PWD that require financial support from partners.

The Royal Government of Cambodia was established Disability Action Council (DAC) which is a National Coordination Mechanism And Consultation on the issue of disability since 2009. On December 10, 2013 Disability Action Council at provincial level will officially established, at the same time Disability Action Task Force at the link of ministries will be established. DAC at the provincial level and the Disability Action Task Force at the link ministries institutions working with people with disabilities are very important in the implementation of the National Disability Strategic Plan. These groups implement policies for people with disabilities at the local level, law enforcement, and the convention relating to the collection of information; write reports about disability status to the government and to the UN to the benefit people with disabilities.

2013 is the last year of the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities, including Landmine/ERW Survivors 2009-2011 and DAC is now undertaking National Disability Strategy Plan 2014-2018, in accordance with the mandate of the government.

Disability Action Council in cooperate with the UNESCAP, Asia and Pacific Centre for Development (APCD), AusAID-Cambodia and other national and international organizations are now jointly draft the National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018.

The first draft of NDSP 2014-2018 will put for discussion in the national consultative workshop on December 19-20, 2013 to ensure the possible implementing in early 2014.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been published, also translated into Khmer, printed and widely disseminated. The Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 Incheon Strategy become "Make the Rights Real".

1. Continued sustainability of physical rehabilitation services for people with disabilities. Each year approximately 20,000 people with disabilities get rehabilitation free fitness. Can respond to the needs of people with disabilities, both quantity and quality. Resource development on the technical expertise produced artificial physical structure expanded become college engineering artificial physical structure of the National Institute of Social thought now has students who graduated from this school, there were 193 people, 90 students from abroad and 103 Cambodian students.
2. Implementing Sub-Decree 137, dated 27 June 2011 on the policy for the disabled poor communities, the Ministry of Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation has laid down the guidelines to implement a model policy for the disabled poor communities in 3 provinces, including: Takeo Province, Kampong Speu and Kandal Province for 2013. Disability Action Council in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Center for Disability Development to implement development programs in the community through Non-Handicap Environmental projects in rural communities in the country provided by the Foundation co-integrate ASEAN Japan in Chhuer Teal commune, Kien Svay district , Kandal Province. Success should be proud in 177 people with disability benefit from the project.
3. Culture, arts, sports activities, people with disabilities are encouraged to participate fully in order to demonstrate the abilities and talents of people with disabilities. Cambodia National Para-Olympics Committee, which Prime Minister **Samdech Aka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, as Chairperson of Esperanto Acacia Olympics for people with mental weakness, Minister of Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation promote artistic movement, disability culture has grown considerably.

Co-Chairs, ladies and gentlemen,

On December 10 2013, Cambodia will celebrates the 15<sup>th</sup> Cambodian Day for Person with Disabilities and 31st International Day for Person with Disabilities 2013, the Establishment of the Disability Action Taskforce and announces the creation of the Provincial Disability Action Council. This event is being convened under the presidency of our Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The above achievement showed the current disability status has improved gradually, dependent on the government's policy, which has given high priority to the field of disability and cooperation with development partners, national and international organizations - who created the software in the field of disability welfare as well as much attention, efforts, persistence and patience from the family, parents and community.

This demonstrates our high level commitment to addressing the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors. Despite these great achievements, Cambodia also faces some challenges such as the limitation of financial support, and human and technical resources to continue to promote the implementation of both international and national mandates to benefit its citizen, including survivors and other persons with disabilities.

Taking this great opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all donors and partners, especially AusAID and UNICEF, for their invaluable collaboration and contributions to Cambodia and to the Disability Action Council in order to fulfil our national responsibilities and our international obligations.

Thank you very much.