



## **KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**Nation Religion King**

Statement by Cambodia on Victim Assistance

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 30 NOV – 4 DEC, 2015

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Taking this great opportunity on behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks for inviting us to share some of the progress made by Cambodia in its efforts to fulfill the commitments to assist victims as agreed in the Maputo Action Plan.

In relation to understanding the challenges faced, Cambodia through the Cambodian Mine/ERW Victim Information System indicates that the number of landmine/ERW accidents has declined from 286 casualties in 2010 to 154 casualties in 2014; 85 mine/ERW accidents were recorded in the nine months of 2015. From 1979 to September 2015, a total of 64,553 mine/ERW casualties were recorded by CMVIS out of which 50,992 (79%) were caused by landmines and 13,561 (21%) by other ERW; 19,720 (31%) people were killed and 35,854 (55%) people injured and 8979 (14%) were amputated.

Cambodia undertook an impact assessment on the living conditions of ex-deminers injured and continuing to conduct Quality of Life Survey of mine survivors and other persons with disability in collaboration with the Cambodian Campaign to Ban Landmines and other disability stakeholder. Based on the findings, a series of activities were made to promote the rights and address the needs of survivors in the broader context of disability and development, at both national and sub-national levels, for instance, survivor networks created in nationwide to encourage survivor to think about their situation and futures, forum on survivor rights and needs to realize they have human rights enshrined under both Cambodian and international law. In addition, with support from the government, the CMAA is able to provide emergency assistance to recent victims and organized a series of training workshops to build the capacity of the survivor networks, and the commune and village chief on recording survivor assistance.

A circular on working group in management, monitoring and data collection of services received of mine victim established in May 2015 which composed of members - Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Disability Action Council, Person with Disability Fund and head of Physical Rehabilitation Centers and working group lead by CMAA.

The National Disability Strategic Plan (NDSP) 2014-2018 was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 by the Prime Minister. The NDSP includes four goals and 10 key objectives, all of which are relevant to addressing the rights and needs of survivors.

The efforts of the government are supported by the Disability Rights Initiative Cambodia program, a 5-year joint program by UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, with funding from the Australian government. The program supported in the implementation of the NDSP 2014-2018 and the CRPD.

Mr. President,

Cambodia is committed to continue working hard to improve the quality of life of survivors, through efforts to uphold their rights and meet their needs. An improvement in the quality of daily life begins in the community. We are committed to ensuring implementation and monitoring of efforts at the district, commune, and village level. Each village community under the village leader will be strongly encouraged to treat survivors and other people with disability with respect, acknowledging their abilities, and upholding their rights and meeting their needs.

For the next 5 years, CMAA will participate in the national coordination mechanism on disability and monitor implementation to ensure that the rights and needs of survivor are being addressed, in the broader context of disability. In addition, CMAA continues to promote the survivor's rights by expanding the quality of life survey, support survivor networks, monitoring the needs of mine victims, provide emergency assistance, and disaggregate data on survivor received services from relevant stakeholders.

Mr. President,

The achievements in implementing the Maputo Action Plan have resulted in a gradual improvement in the status of people with disability, including mine survivors. Despite these achievements, Cambodia faces many challenges such as the limitation of financial support, and human and technical resources to continue to promote the implementation of both international and national obligations that benefit persons with disability including mine survivors. Together with our partners, we will continue to work to address these challenges.

Taking this great opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our donors and partners, especially the Australian government, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO for their invaluable collaboration and contribution towards achieving Cambodia's national responsibilities and international obligations to landmine survivors and other people with disability.

Thank you very much.