



STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON MINE CLEARANCE
THE 15TH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO MINE BAN TREATY

SANTIAGO, CHILE, 30 NOVEMBER, 2016

Excellency Mr. President;
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;
Distinguished Delegates,

Today, I have a great pleasure and privilege to attend the fifteenth meeting of the State Parties to Mine Ban Treaty. First of all, allow me to congratulate to you for the well-organized meeting in this lovely city of Santiago, Chile and the wonderful arrangements made for Cambodian delegation to attend this important meeting.

Maputo Declaration of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction adopted on 27 June 2014 opens a new chapter and opportunity for all states parties to be stronger committed and to realistically adjust their strategy and plan of actions to achieve the goals of the convention, particularly realize the article 5 of the convention. Cambodia has come across a lot of challenges running through our tireless efforts of survey and mine clearance during some sixteen years in struggle to realize the article 5 of the convention.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Survey: A series of protracted internal and regional conflicts for more than 3 decades ranging from civil war to guerrilla war have left Cambodia no clear mark, map, and pattern, for appropriately addressing the huge magnitude of mine/ERW contamination across the whole country in timely fashion. Even so, Cambodia has carried out a number of sequent national surveys to capture the mine/ERW remaining contamination in clearer picture at the most extent and to release some suspected hazard areas of the total contamination through cancellation based on the land release methodology.

A national Level One Survey completed in April 2002 revealed that 46% of Cambodian villages were impacted by landmines in different categories. The contamination covered 4,544 square kilometers of land.

After some years of experience, the sector realized that the contamination recorded by the Level One Survey could not be used to plan for clearance and thus decided to launch a more precise survey, Baseline Survey, from late 2009. To date, 163 districts out of 197 districts have been Baseline Surveyed. The un-surveyed districts are located in the eastern provinces that are mainly contaminated by ERW, including cluster munitions. The result of the baseline survey indicates about 1,946km² mine/ERW contaminated land, including 971km² by landmine, 627 by cluster munitions and 348 by ERW, covering 13,941 polygons. Cambodia will maintain survey capacity to release

previously identified mined areas through non-technical survey (cancellation), and to record mined areas not captured by previous surveys in order to keep mine action data updated in IMSMA.

Land Release Progress:

Humanitarian mine clearance in Cambodia started in 1992. Following are humanitarian clearance operators active in the country such as Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC), a national operator, National Center for Peace Keeping Forces, Mine and ERW Clearance (NPMEC), a national operator that is part of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF), The HALO Trust, an international operator, Mine Advisory Group (MAG), an international operator, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), an international operator, Cambodia Self-Help Demining (CSHD), a local operator.

With their tireless efforts of all operators (CMAC, the HALO Trust, MAG, RCAF and CSHD), and with steadfast supports from some donors and the Royal Government of Cambodia, since 1992 to October 2016, Cambodia has released a total of 1,511,762,987 m², found and destroyed 1,032,277 APM, 24,179 ATM and 2,646,657 UXO, and encouraged the testing, research and development of the new technology on mine and ERW clearance such as Scorpion, Ebinger products with DGPS, HSTAMID, VALON and Mine Detection Rat (by APOPO). The result of mine/ERW clearance is significantly increasing by double in productivity attributing to vigorously strengthened implementation of the land release methodology since 2010, coupled with enhanced full compliance of CMASs and ensured Quality Management of Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA).

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Cambodia aims to clear and release all landmine contaminated land by 2025 to be in line with Maputo+15 Declaration. To achieve this deadline, the followings are considered necessary enabling factors:

1. Cambodia is developing a new National Mine Action Strategy 2017-2025 (NMAS), which aims to provide better comprehensive directions for mine action in Cambodia. This new Strategy lays out a clearer objectives and strategic actions in order to achieve the article 5 of the Mine Ban Convention by 2025. The short-version of the NMAS will be disseminated at the front desk outside or at our side event which will take place on 30 November 2016.
2. The remaining total contaminated land including landmines, cluster munitions and ERW will be addressed with respectively different strategies, released through fully complied land release methodology, especially reinforced application of non-technical survey (cancellation), estimated roughly 35% of the total release.
3. At current rates and prioritization of clearance, it will take many more years for Cambodia to reach its end state commitment. By re-prioritizing clearance assets to ensure majority of contaminated land released from the highest impacting minefields, clearance will be complete by 2025. With this regard, it is required to re-adjust the planning and prioritization.
4. These 14 CMASs and Quality Management system will be rigorously enforced to ensure the most efficient use of clearance assets.
5. Regarding accessing to all border mined areas, we would like to reconfirm that Cambodia is a State Party to the APMBT, and we must commit itself to clear all

known mined areas under its jurisdiction and control, even though Cambodia still faces some bordering issues due to the slow process of demarcation, especially along the border with Thailand. The areas where the land is not in dispute, clearance is taking place in accordance with community priorities, while other areas where the land is in dispute will be subject to the clearance upon request by the Joint Border Committee.

6. To achieve this deadline, Cambodia will require about US \$407 million, including about US \$228 million required to clear the remaining minefields and US \$141 million for prioritized cluster munitions strikes and US \$38 million for ERW.

Although Cambodia has transitioned to Lower Middle Income Country, it is impossible for Cambodia to shoulder this alone. Government financial contribution to the mine action has been increasing annually and this will continue into the future. Financial contribution from our current and potential donors will be important for Cambodia to achieve its ambitious, but achievable deadline of 2025.

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MRE: Mine risk education contributes significantly to the reduction of casualties. So far more than 580,000 people have successfully undertaken mine risk education, half of whom live in highly affected areas. Despite a downturn in funding, MRE will continue, especially the highly successful school programs. Adjustments will be made to take account of an increase in migrant populations particularly in the north-west. Education sessions will be tailored to enable those needing to work in the fields or as laborers so they can attend sessions.

Building on the successful MRE measures of previous years, consideration will be given to Base Line Survey teams providing MRE information. A more community-based and tailored responses will be considered. In view of the decline of funding to MRE activities, the use of existing resources should be maximized to target very high risk areas and poor segments of the local population. Children, mobile adult populations, those in high risk areas and poor segments of society will be a particular focus for MRE programs.

Last of all, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all donors for their generosity to support mine action in Cambodia and I have a high hope that your kind support and assistance will continue to let Cambodia finish the job by 2025, and thank you for your kind attention.

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