



STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE  
THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO MINE BAN TREATY  
SANTIAGO, CHILE, 28 NOVEMBER 2016

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

First, I would like to thank and congratulate Mexico, Netherland, Switzerland and Uganda for the leadership you have given as the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

In one front, Cambodian mine action has been benefiting significantly from the international community since 1992. National and international demining operators have released over 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> of mined and ERW contaminated areas over these two and a half decades with the government and international funding. In another front, Cambodia has continuously been taking part in the UN peace keeping mission around the world including South Sudan, Chad, Republic of Mali, the Central African Republic, Lebanon and Cyprus. Cambodia also strongly support the exchange of knowledges and experience with other countries. In this regard, Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) and demining operators have made many positive contributions to the development of mine action programs in other countries. In 2016, Cambodia has exchanged the knowledges and experience in mine action with delegates from:

- Directorate Mine Action Coordination from Afghanistan on Cambodian mine action
- National Demining Institute from Angola on MRE and VA coordination and operation mechanism
- Myanmar on database management
- National Mine Action Centre from Tajikistan on Cambodian mine action
- Quang Tri Legacy of war Coordination Centre from Vietnam on Cambodian mine action
- Denish Demining Group from Denmark on EOD skill improvement
- USDOS from USA on database management
- Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japanese Study Tour of JICA and other organizations from Japan on mine awareness in multiple occasions
- TMAC from Thailand on mine awareness
- Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on mine awareness

Recognizing the necessity of cooperation and assistance, Cambodia has included the enhancement of international cooperation and assistance under one goal of our National Mine Action Strategy.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As you might recall our statements in the last meeting that with the initiative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia during ASEAN summit in

2012, the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) has been established to enhance cooperation among ASEAN and with the global mine action community. The centre's head office is located in the heart of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. The office was inaugurated in May this year. The first and second steering committee meetings were already organized in September and November this year respectively. All representatives of ASEAN countries in the steering committee attended these meetings to discuss the recruitment of ARMAC executive director, operational budget and work plan.

This centre will play a critical role in the regional and global mine action. Cambodian mine action community is ready to collaborate with this centre when it is fully operationalized. In this respect, Cambodia would like to appeal to the APMBC member states, GICHD, other expert organizations and development partners to support the ARMAC in this humanitarian cause.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

According to the latest data, Cambodia's remaining contaminated area is around 1,946 km<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, continued participation from all development partners and demining operators remain the key factor in supporting Cambodia to achieve our national mine action strategy which aims to release all known mined areas and to minimize the residual risks caused by mines and other explosive remnants of war in Cambodia by 2025. Collectively, we would make our dream of mine-free world come true.

To this end, please allow us to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to the APMBC for the contribution to Cambodian as well as global mine action. We would also like to express our gratitude to all donors who have been providing support to Cambodian mine action. Last but not least, our special thanks go to the government of Chile for hosting this important meeting.

Thank you,