



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
17TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN
CONVENTION
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 26-30 NOV 2018

Madam Chair, Distinguished delegations, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks for inviting us to share the progress made by the Kingdom of Cambodia in its efforts to fulfill its commitments to assist mine victims as agreed upon in the Maputo Action Plan. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique for the tireless efforts you have given as the Committee on Victim Assistance.

Madam Chair, Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

Cambodia is affected by mines and explosive remnants of war left by 30 years of conflict that ended in the 1990s. With determined efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia and with assistance from the United Nations and the international community, Cambodia began its humanitarian mine action program in 1992.

In Cambodia, Victim Assistance is part of the large disability and rehabilitation sector, which has been delegated to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, to provide physical rehabilitation and social reintegration services to all People with Disabilities (PWD). However, as a state party to the APMBC, the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) is tasked by the Royal Government of Cambodia to represent Cambodia and to provide regular updates and progress reports on victim assistance.

As a State Party to the Convention, Cambodia committed to continue working hard to improve the quality of life of survivors. The Royal Government of Cambodia established various legal frameworks to support mine and ERW victims as well as persons with disabilities. These include the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the National Disability Strategy Plan 2014-2018, the National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018, the Sustainable Development Goal 18, and most recently, the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025. These frameworks provide roadmaps in supporting mine/ERW victims as well as indirect victims.

The CMAA, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, plays its role as the coordinating body to mobilize resources and technical assistance to support mine/ERW victims and their families. Through this mechanism, relevant government ministries, subnational authorities, NGOs and the private sector actively participate in making victim assistance support services available. Those services include: the provision of the emergency assistances to victims (such as emergency medical treatment), medium to long term physical rehabilitation, vocational trainings, job placement and the psychological and socio-economic support, and addressing the rights and needs of the People with Disabilities (for instance, sharing information about the services to victims, survivors and their families).

Madam Chair, Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

Over 25 years, Cambodia released 1,691 square kilometers of landmine contaminated areas and more than one million landmines were destroyed. More than 600,000 people who are living in and adjacent to the most contaminated areas received mine risk education messages. These total efforts resulted in the reduction in the number of landmine casualties from 4,320 persons in 1996 to 58 persons in 2017.

Although the number of casualties has declined in recent years in Cambodia, thanks to the massive clearance work of the last 25 years, there is a real danger that casualties will increase as a result of growing population and also people moving, through necessity, into new areas who are unaware of the risks. In addition, 946 square kilometers of land remaining large magnitude of the landmine problem, as shown in our database system, poses greater danger to our people. Therefore, continued support and assistance from all development partners remain vital for Cambodia to address these challenges.

According to the quality of life survey conducted in [year], there were 4,862 persons with disabilities, including 1,066 mine/ERW survivors living in 652 villages, 124 communes, and 50 districts in 25 provinces in the country. The survey is routinely conducted by our volunteer survivor networks.

Cambodia organized various forums on disabilities to disseminate the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, guidelines and other related policies. The needs of persons with disabilities were discussed.

Eleven physical rehabilitation centers, one spinal cord injury center and three repair workshops distributed 43,000 prosthetic and orthotic products, including 8,296 assistive devices and 25,053 walking aids.

Local authorities were also encouraged to collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities.

Madam Chair, Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

Despite these achievements, Cambodia still faces many challenges, in particular with the limitation of financial support. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to call on all development partners to continue your financial assistance and technical support so that together Cambodia is able to address the problems.

And, knowing the nature and magnitude of the problems as outlined in this statement, would you please let us know what financial, human and technical resources the international community can offer to support Cambodia overcome these challenges.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all donors and partners, especially the Australian and Canadian Governments, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, Exceed Worldwide, ICRC, VIC, Handicap International, and those whom we have not named here, for your invaluable collaboration and contribution to Cambodia in achieving national responsibilities and international obligations to landmine survivors and other Persons With Disabilities.

Thank you.