



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King**

**STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
18th MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL
MINE BAN CONVENTION
VIRTUAL FORMAT MEETING, 16 - 20 November 2020**

Excellences Chair, Distinguished delegations, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to congratulate and thank to Canada as the Chair of this Committee for your tireless efforts to achieve multilateral outcomes. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the constructive contributions to this Committee of Austria, Norway and Zambia.

Over the past 27 years, we have released an extraordinary around 1,979 square kilometres of mine contaminated land that have been putting back and allowing people to safely use their land for agriculture and other socio-economic purposes. During which, we found and destroyed over one million anti-personnel (AP) mines, more than 25,186 anti-tank mines and over 2.8 million items of explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Furthermore, the contributions of the women and men in the mine action sector to Cambodia's development have been significant. I am pleased to report that the number of mine and ERW casualties has declined from 4,320 in 1996 to 77 casualties in 2019.

HE. Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

We are at a crossroads and the end is in sight. Though we have deemed safe a large amount of land, we are still facing with a significant challenge. There remains 806 square kilometers of anti-personnel landmine contaminated land across the country.

In addition to anti-personnel landmines, Cambodia is also contaminated by the presence of anti-tank mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. Currently, we conduct further baseline survey in the remaining 73 districts partially surveyed or un-surveyed to collect information to fully ascertain the remaining problem. This task will finish in the end of this year.

Given the nature and extent of the remaining anti-personnel landmine contamination, Cambodia have requested for second extension under Article 5 of the Convention last year at the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo, Norway and we have granted to extend the second extension request of mine clearance from 2020 to 2025.

HE.Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

Cambodia was strongly committed to the Maputo +15 Declaration and recently to the Oslo Action Plan, which will intensify efforts to complete clearance to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

In 2017, The Royal Government of Cambodia has adopted the ***National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025***. This Strategy aims to achieve the vision of Cambodia as a land free of mines where the threat of explosive remnants of war is minimized, and human and socio-economic development takes place safely.

The Strategy outlines how Cambodia will address its mine and ERW problem with the aim of releasing all known AP mined areas by 2025. A three-year Implementation Plan 2018-2020 will see concrete targets achieved, including releasing all prioritized mine-free villages. We realize that the Strategy is ambitious. However, we believe that we can meet our obligations by 2025 if action plans can be achieved on time.

We have brought the experiences and lessons learned over the past 27-years into our Strategy. This includes more effective planning and prioritization processes, the adoption of the mine-free village strategy and the effective use of land release methodology. We understand our remaining problem, we are aware where it is and we know that we have the expertise to release the remaining land.

Due to the large scale of contamination, we will certainly continue to need resources and assistance from the international community to close this final chapter.

We estimate that we will need at least 165 million dollars to remove the anti-personnel landmine threat between 2020 and 2025. To secure this amount, we have developed a Resource Mobilization Strategy that will target past and current donors, as well as engaging with emerging and non-traditional donors. We are also working with our private sector to seek their support.

To join the effort with our friends from the international community, our Government has committed to contribute 10 percent in cash and in-kind to match with any new bilateral funds to the mine action sector and 10 percent in cash to funds channeled through the UNDP/CMAA managed Clearing for Results project. I do hope that the international community would be encouraged by these commitments and continue supporting the Cambodian mine action sector.

HE. Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors to the mine action sector who have generously supported Cambodia over the past 27-years, those include but not limit to UNDP, Australia, Switzerland, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, USA, UK, Japan, South Korea, Ireland and Germany. We are also thankful for the support of emerging donors such as China.

I sincerely believe that together with our combined efforts, at this crossroads, we will be able to achieve Cambodia Mine Free 2025.

Thank you