



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
18th MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
VIRTUAL FORMAT MEETING, 16-20 NOVEMBER 2020

H.E Chair, Distinguished delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate United Kingdom, Turkey, Colombia and Germany for the leadership you have given as the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

I am honoured and privileged to address Cambodia's activities and achievements in relation to cooperation and assistance under the Convention.

Following 27-years of achievements, the Cambodian mine action sector is at a crossroads - having accomplished a lot and at the same time facing significant challenges to meet our obligations under the Convention.

Since 1992, the international donor community has contributed some 464 million US dollars and the Royal Government of Cambodia has contributed 160 million US dollars. These generous supports led to the release of 1,979 square kilometres of contaminated land, removed and destroyed more than one million anti-personnel mines, over 25 thousand anti-tank mines and some 2.8 million items of explosive remnants of war (ERW). The above funding also resulted in socio-economic support, peace building, refugee resettlement, land use, risk reduction, victim assistance, poverty reduction and more.

HE. Chair, lady and gentlemen,

Going forward, the Royal Government of Cambodia has approved the ***National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025*** which aims to achieve a mine-free Cambodia to the fullest extent possible by 2025.

Overall, a budget of 377 million US dollars is further needed to achieve a mine-free 2025 and minimize the threat of ERW. This includes a need to secure at least 165 million dollars from 2020 to 2025 to meet our commitment to the Maputo +15 Declaration and remove all known anti-personnel mines from Cambodia.

I would like to point out that, in 2018, the Government adopted to provide 10 percent in cash to support the UNDP/CMAA led Clearing for Results project. Channelling funds through the Clearing for Results project would allow us, CMAA, to utilize it in line with the National Mine Action Strategy and the annual work plans.

In a similar way, the Government also provides 10 percent in cash and in-kind to match with any new funds provided bilaterally to operators to carry out mine action operation.

I strongly believe that these commitments underscore how serious Cambodia is in meeting its obligations.

Not only received the support we also shared the knowledge and expertise we gained over the past decades with other mine action programs globally. In this regard, Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) and demining operators have developed a stronger spirit of cooperation across various country programmes and have made many positive contributions to the development of mine action programs in other countries. For the last few years, Cambodia has exchanged its knowledge and experience in mine action with the delegation from Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

As you might aware, we were once supported by the UN blue berets and now we are in a position to do so, by giving back to the international community or sharing the expertise we have gained over the years as part of UN peacekeeping operations in Syria, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Republic of Mali, the Central Africa Republic, Cyprus and Lebanon.

Moreover, Cambodia is instrumental in the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) in 2012. The Permanent Secretariat (PS) of ARMAC is based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Through guidance from the ASEAN Charter and ASEAN Political Security Blueprint 2025, ARMAC aims to serve as a centre of excellence in mine/ERW action. As ASEAN Member State, Cambodia would like to appeal to the APMBC states parties, expert organizations and development partners to explore collaborative opportunities with the ARMAC in this humanitarian cause.

HE. Chair, lady and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all interested States to visit our mine action activities in Cambodia. We would be delighted to host you and share our experiences whenever situation allowed, ideally after the end of covid-19.

We thank all the donors to the mine action sector who have generously supported Cambodia over the past 27-years. We are also thankful for the support of emerging donors and desire to welcome any new donors who wish to support the Cambodian mine action.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chair, United Kingdom, who has been a very strong partner in mine action, as well as United Kingdom, Turkey, Colombia and Germany for their significant work under this Committee.

Thank you