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## New Zealand Statement

### **New Zealand's contributions to cooperation and assistance in the context of mine action**

New Zealand is committed to supporting cooperation and assistance efforts in seeking to reduce the human costs inflicted by anti-personnel mines. The assistance we have provided spans a range of mine action activities, from our provision of de-mining expertise to affected areas such as those in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq, Mozambique and Lebanon, through to supporting the victims of landmines rebuild their lives.

We agree with the views of many humanitarian organisations that mine action assistance is closely tied to long term sustainable development. If assistance is appropriately targeted, it can serve as a means of empowering communities affected by anti-personnel mines to take greater ownership for their socio-economic development. Improving integration and coordination of mine action, which incorporates a development perspective, will ensure that the benefits of our assistance will be sustained and will meet the needs of the affected communities, help reduce poverty and strengthen human rights.

New Zealand's current contributions reflect our recognition of the essential role that mine action can play in strengthening development objectives. Over the past year, New Zealand has been particularly active in the Asian region, where landmines remain a persistent threat. There are sadly many landmine survivors in this region who require assistance in order to re-build their livelihoods.

In Lao PDR, we have provided funding to UNESCO for its work to remove unexploded ordnance (UXO) and to develop a sustainable, inclusive, ~~pro-poor~~ community-based heritage tourism (CBHT) industry in Xieng Khouang Province

In Cambodia, we are involved in a number of projects. New Zealand funding has gone towards building vocational training in stone carving and income generation among landmine victims in Siem Reap. Funding has been provided to Cambodia Trust for their capacity building project to localise teaching staff at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics. We will also be providing fund to strengthen the training capabilities and capacity of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, through the establishment of a National Training Centre.

Through each of these projects, New Zealand establishes cooperative partnerships with local communities and non-governmental organisations. Our strong emphasis on working closely with these groups ensures that we have a shared stake in the success of the projects that New Zealand is supporting.