

STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA

by

H.E. Sam Sotha

Advisor to the Prime Minister

**Secretary-General of Cambodian Mine Action and
Victim Assistance Authority**

To

**The 8th Meeting of the States Parties
to the Ottawa Conference of the Convention**

**Acceptance of Cambodia's Nomination as Co-Chair of the
Standing Committee on Victim Assistance**

Dead Sea – Jordan

November 21, 2007

Your Royal Highness,

Mr. President

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Cambodia, I am happy to inform the meeting that Cambodia is honoured to be assuming the role of Co-Rapporteur for the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance along with New Zealand. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sudan and Austria for their leadership of this committee for the past year. Cambodia is looking forward to working with Your Royal Highness as the President of the 8th Meeting of the States Parties along with the soon-to-be-appointed Co-Rapporteurs and the Implementation Support Unit.

The issue of victim assistance is particularly important in our country where more than 45,000 survivors of landmines and other explosive remnants of war have been recorded.

Through the work of this Standing Committee, countries such as Cambodia now have a clear framework to address the rights and needs of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

As Co-Chair, we will continue the work of our predecessors – Afghanistan, Austria, Nicaragua, Norway, Sudan and Switzerland – to ensure progress in achieving the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan. And, in so doing, improve the quality of daily life of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

Thank you very much.