



**STATEMENT BY CAMBODIAN DELEGATION
ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

DELIVERED BY

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TO

THE 8TH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE MINE BAN CONVENTION

**Dead Sea, Jordan
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Your Royal Highness,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.
Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to join you today for the 10th Anniversary of the Mine Ban Convention to review the progress and the responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors and challenges faced during implementation.

What progress has Cambodia made since last states parties meeting?

First Victim Assistance Plan:

In December 2006 the Steering Committee for Landmine Victim Assistance has been established, and this was approved by the Royal Government in October this year. With financial backing from Australia, a new draft national plan of victim assistance was formulated with participation from focal groups in the six areas of the Nairobi Action Plan 2004.

It is envisioned that this document will be used as the basis for national coordination of all disability activities in order to enhance collaboration and cooperation, identify gaps and avoid duplication of services amongst the stakeholders. The plan will also provide a means of strategic direction for the Royal Government of Cambodia, in particular the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (known as MoSVY), to gradually take over leadership in prevention, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of persons with disabilities.

Actual progress in implementation of Victim Assistance:

In Cambodia physical rehabilitation centers are mostly run by International NGOs with collaboration and supervision of MoSVY. In late 2006, an evaluation of the Physical Rehabilitation Centre was carried out with financial support of Australia and UNICEF. The main recommendations were:

- a) Need to have adequate disability information for better planning and advocate for increasing of resources.
- b) Need to provide capacity building to enable MoSVY to manage, coordinate, and implement an appropriate response to the current needs of persons with disabilities.
- c) MoSVY needs to develop a transitional strategy in order for MoSVY to take over full responsibility of Physical Rehabilitation Centre (PRC) services by 2011.

MoSVY foresees that it will not be able to take over all PRC services immediately due to the unavailability of Government human and financial resources. Therefore, I would like to appeal donor communities to continue providing financial support to Cambodia so that we can prepare for and continue our response for most disability service provision by 2011.

Currently, vocational skills training programs are successfully implemented by MoSVY in collaboration with international NGOs. One initiated by ILO has been handed over to a local NGO for replication in other provinces in collaboration with MoSVY.

Cambodia Government signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in early October 2007. This convention has been translated to Cambodian language by persons with disabilities and a workshop on this publication will be held in early 2008 with support of UN agencies and Disability Action Council. The purpose of this workshop is to bring national attention to persons with disabilities and to lobby for national ratification of this convention and the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

A focus in 2008 will be the implementation of the national action plan in the area of understanding *the extend of the challenge faced*. A survey on people with disabilities and services will be done. We need funding to develop and strengthen the capacity of the MoSVY to do the survey, analyze the situation and map the way forward.

Although funding to disability sector has been provided by some donors the overall support to this sector is minimal and many gaps still need to be filled.

The coordination among relevant ministries, national and international organizations is being promoted by the requested participation in the Steering Committee on Landmine Victim Assistance. The actual participation would result in good social policy for the sector.

Finally, Mr. President, on behalf of Cambodian delegation I thank you for the opportunity to speak and for your attention. We urge that the donor communities continue to provide financial support to persons with disabilities in Cambodia, especially for the disability survey and the objectives of the draft National Action Plan in order to assist Cambodia to meet its obligations and build a dignified quality of life for survivors.

Thank You.