



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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Statement made by

H.E. Mr. NEY SAM OL

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Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations at Geneva

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First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: A Mine Free World by 2025: "THE LAST STRETCH"

2nd March 2016

Mr. President, esteemed colleagues:

At the outset, Cambodia delegation would like to highly appreciate and thank the government of Chile, as President of Ottawa Convention, for organizing this crucial First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Today Conference will set a corner stone precedence in terms of galvanizing States Parties, and traditional and non-traditional actors to announce their commitments and financial means to sustain the functioning of the Implementation Support Unit; and also of requesting the mine-affected States Parties to declare commitment and budget arrangements toward their National Mine Action Programs. Therefore, as one of the mine-affected States Parties, Cambodia is pleased to uphold its duty and obligations under this Convention.

Cambodia was one of the 28 states and other organizations that financially contributed to the implementation of the ISU's 2015 Work Plan, as stated by the ISU's interim report during the 14MSP in 2015. As a signatory and State Party to the Convention since the very beginning, we have regularly financed the ISU, and will continue to do so for the ISU's 2016-2019 Work Plan. In this regards, my delegation is pleased to see others to follow through.

Furthermore, My delegation hope that both traditional and non-traditional donors will highlight their commitment and support toward the Convention's Sponsorship Programme, and the Mine Acton; and particularly toward specific country operations like Cambodia which is currently implementing key provisions of the Convention.

Mr. President

Let me briefly inform the Conference about the implementation and progress Cambodia has made under the framework of this Convention. From 1992 to September 2015 Cambodia had cleared/released a total of 1,402 KM2, found and destroyed 1,020,385 APMs; 23,869 ATMs and 2,600,865 UXO.

Despite these remarkable achievements, however, each year around 100 innocent citizens have been injured, amputated or killed by these indiscriminate weapons, 1,638KM2 affected areas remained, and thousand peoples continue to live in the vicinity of these contaminated lands.

In this regards, today, Cambodia is still facing considerable challenges which need both financial and technical support from other donors, development partners, and friends around the world. According to our latest projections, we would need around 361 million USD; couple with our own resources-commitment, to carry out these noble and humanitarian endeavors.

As far as our commitment and budget arrangements are concerned, we will incorporate these commitment and budget in our new National Mine Action Strategy 2017-2025. At the same time, we have provided tax exemption and support for the functioning and organization of the National Mine Action relevant bodies at both national and sub-national levels. Together with others, we shoulder funds for projects like Clearing for Results, Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance, Planning and Prioritization, Research and Development, Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action, and Information Management. Moreover, we also support peace keeping missions with the United Nations, expertise exchanges at an international level (South-South Cooperation) with more than 20 mine/ERW affected states, and clearance in support of infrastructure development.

To conclude, my delegation, once again, would like to thank all Development Partners and friends that have allocated funds to Cambodia, and we appeal to them to continue to do so, to get rid of the horrendous menaces to save our people lives and limbs, together in order to reach our object of "A Mine Free World by 2025".

Thank you.