



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
19 MSP TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
Virtual from The Hague City, The Netherlands, 15-19 Nov 2021

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to express my gratitude on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia for the opportunity to update on our Article 5 implementation progress.

Over the past 29 years, Cambodia released 2,287 square kilometers of mine and explosive remnants of war contaminated land, thanks to the concerted efforts of the government, development partners, mine action operators and other stakeholders. During this period, over one million anti-personnel mines (APM = 1,114,209), more than 25 thousand anti-tank mines (ATM = 25,787), and over 2.9 million items of explosive remnants of war (ERW = 2,948,746) were removed and destroyed. Consequently, the released land has been put back into productive use to serve the various needs of the people and their communities including housing, agriculture, infrastructure development and other socio-economic purposes. Further, land release, and other complementary efforts have drastically reduced the number of mine and ERW casualties from 4,320 in 1996 to 65 in 2020.

Significantly, at the end of 2020, the Cambodian mine action sector saw the completion of the baseline survey for the remaining 73 districts. With this improved understanding of the remaining contamination, the sector can further enhance the planning and prioritization for annual mine clearance operations.

Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Notwithstanding that the Cambodian mine action sector has achieved splendidly, Cambodia has 2,098 square kilometers of remaining contaminated areas to release. Specifically, the size of mine-contaminated land is over 774 square kilometers. Hence, these explosive ordnances are still making perilous impacts, with 42 casualties from January to October 2021.

With these challenges to overcome, Cambodia is intensifying its efforts to the fullest extent possible to complete the clearance by 2025. It underscores Cambodia's strong commitment to align its strategy and plan with the Oslo Action Plan. However, to achieve our ambitious target of a mine free 2025, 333 million US dollars is needed. Specifically, 225 million US dollars is required to release mine-contaminated land. When compared to the resource mobilization achieved from 2018 to 2020, which totaled 90 million dollars, we are facing a devastating funding shortfall.

The Cambodian mine action community has been capitalizing on the knowledge and skills earned over the past 3 decades to augment our operational efficiency in information management, planning and prioritization processes and land release methodology. Nationally, we are reshaping our resource mobilization strategy that will

target current and prospective donors, as well as the private sector to seek their support.

Recently, we have successfully piloted the mine-free village mechanism in Kep, a coastal province in south-western Cambodia. The objective of the mine free village program is to mobilize additional financial resources to clear a contaminated area, village by village, to make it mine-free so that the risk and associated fear of mine accidents is removed, and community livelihood and development activities can take place to their fully and safely. The mechanism aims to complement the contribution of traditional donors to achieve the vision of mine-free Cambodia by 2025. We look forward to expanding the mine-free village mechanism in other provinces.

To this end, we ask that the development partners, especially those States Parties who have the capacities to assist, join us to continue our journey to realize the 2025 vision.

Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and compliments to all the development partners who supported and continue supporting the mine action sector in Cambodia.

As Cambodia and her people stand at a crossroads of success and immense challenges, I sincerely believe that together, with our combined efforts, we will be able to achieve Cambodia Mine Free 2025.

Thank you