



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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**STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON ENHANCEMENT OF
COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON THE ANTI-PERSONNEL
MINE BAN CONVENTION
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION BUILDING IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
On 19-21 June 2023**

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, Cambodia wishes to thank the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for their able leadership to strengthen partnerships among the States Parties.

Despite its own struggle with landmines, Cambodia recognizes the importance of supporting other mine-affected States and has maintained its cooperation and assistance in addressing the problem of landmines in other countries. Since 2006, Cambodia has deployed over 8,302 Cambodian peacekeepers – including 580 women – to UN peacekeeping operations in 9 countries. For only the first half of 2023, 800 Cambodian peacekeepers have been deployed in South Sudan, Lebanon, Central Africa Republic, and Mali.

Moreover, the Cambodian mine action community broadly shared our knowledge, experience, and skills with other mine action programs globally. We have hosted study visits, conducted training, and made presentations at various mine action events in 2022.

Having seen the strong results gained from these capacity development activities as part of the assistance that Cambodia can give to other States Parties, Cambodia will roll out its South-South Cooperation Mechanism from 2023. This will include a regional workshop to be hosted in Cambodia with the priority to benefit the landmine-affected countries in the ASEAN region.

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Since 1992, States Parties and other international donor countries have contributed nearly 500 million US dollars to the mine action sector in Cambodia. In addition, the Royal Government of Cambodia has also spent nearly 200 million US dollars on the sector. These concerted efforts led to the release of more than 2,579 square kilometers of contaminated land for peacebuilding, risk reduction, housing, agriculture, infrastructure, and other socio-economic development activities.

The good news is Cambodia has seen the increasing participation of the private sector through the 2022 High-Level Dialogue on Mine Action, co-chaired by the CMAA and Australia, and the launch of the Mine-Free Village Mechanism, which provides for a stronger linkage between demining work and subsequent rural development initiatives. As a result, CMAA raised approximately 500,000 USD from the private sector. While a small amount when compared to traditional financing, this is a good start and an inspiring complementarity.

As all who follow the Cambodian mine action scene closely know, our fight against landmines has not finished. For the remaining period of Cambodia's 2nd extension request, from 2023 to 2025, Cambodia has plans to release 681 km² of landmine areas. To do so, we need 175 million US dollars.

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Cambodia's mine action sector plan remains underfunded which threatens our ability to fulfill our Article 5 clearance obligation. We thank our donors: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the US, UNDP, UNICEF, and GICHD; for their continuing support and call on our past donors: Austria, Denmark, France, the EU, Netherlands and Sweden and any would-be donors to engage or reengage with us as we strive to achieve our 2025 target. In line with this plea, during the bilateral meetings at the side-lines of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits on October 2022 in Phnom Penh, Samdech Prime Minister called for the UN Secretary-General and the heads of state from Australia, Canada, India, Japan, and the US to further their support to mine clearance in Cambodia. Cambodia is concluding its 2022 ASEAN chairmanship with numerous achievements – one of them was to reassure ASEAN Leaders' commitments to address the problems of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the region, especially through the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center.

Let there be no doubt that the national commitment is there. A historic event for mine action in Cambodia took place on 1st July 2022, when Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen appealed to the private sector to support the acceleration of landmine clearance as Cambodia strives to meet its targets ahead of the 2025 deadline to clear all emplaced anti-personnel landmines. 18 million US dollars has been raised via the Prime Minister's initiative, which is no small amount. Moreover, in 2023, the Cambodian Government contributed 30 million US dollars for clearing landmine contamination. Let's treasure these efforts with our consolidated commitments to achieve a mine-free Cambodia by 2025.

Thank you