



Remarks

His Excellency Dr. Ly Thuch
Senior Minister of Cambodia, Vice-President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, and current President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Regional Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact Of Improvised Anti-Personnel Mines Within the Context of the Convention

13-15 February 2024, Accra, Ghana

- **His Excellency Alhaji Dr Mahamadu Bawumia, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana**
- **Honourable Ambrose Dery, Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Ghana**
- **Honourable Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana**
- **Margaret Arach Orech, Founder and Director, Uganda Landmine Survivor Association and Ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines**
- **His Excellency Irchad Razaaly, Ambassador of the European Union to Ghana**
- **Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am deeply honored to speak to you today here in Accra, Ghana, as we come together for this important conference on the impact of improvised anti-personnel mines.

Our meeting here shows our united commitment to a cause that is not just important but necessary for humanity.

As we come together to champion the cause of eradicating the threat of landmines, I am reminded of the significant milestones and contributions made by nations in the pursuit of peace and security.

This year, 2024, marks the 31st anniversary of a notable chapter in Ghana's rich history of peacekeeping efforts. Ghana sent troops to join the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in 1992, a mission established by the United Nations to foster stability and support the transition to a democratic government in Cambodia after years of conflict and civil war.

Ghana's commitment to international peace and security was vividly demonstrated through its participation in UNTAC.

This contribution is a testament to Ghana's dedication to the collective efforts of the international community in resolving conflicts and rebuilding nations.

This year marks an important milestone for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention since we celebrate 25th Anniversary of the Convention as well as convene the 5th Review Conference. Cambodia has a great honour bestowed upon by all the 164 states parties to be the president and host of this conference and Cambodia's top leader, **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia** named it "the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World".

The summit will be held from 25th to 29th November in Siem Reap, considered one of the most attractive tourism destinations by many experts. The summit represents a pivotal moment for the Convention, and preparations are underway.

The event aims to finalize three crucial documents:

1. A review document outlining the implementation status of the Oslo Action Plan,
2. The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan for the years 2025–2029, serving as a comprehensive roadmap for the next five years to support collective efforts in fulfilling the Convention's obligations and objectives, and
3. The Siem Reap-Angkor political declaration. My team and I are committed to developing these documents through an inclusive process, and we welcome suggestions and input from all States Parties and other stakeholders.

The Accra Regional Conference offers a unique opportunity for African countries to contribute insights that can inform the development of the new Plan for the States by the States Parties.

With this, in addition to the invitation letter extended by the Secretary General of the United Nations, I have the pleasure to invite you to attend the summit in Siem Reap.

In terms of key features of the programme:

- on 24th November, we plan for a marching across some beautiful temples in the morning, a visit to the Peace Museum and mocked-

up demining activities in the afternoon, and temple dinner in the evening.

- on 25th November, the opening ceremony will be presided over by the Cambodia's Prime Minister. We are discussing with the Implementation Support Unit and various committees of the convention about the possibility to organize a visit to one or more temples including Angkor Wat Temple in the middle of the week.
- There will be a high-level segment with a unique session for the ministers and other high-level representatives including signing the political declarations to reassure our commitments to the convention. I hope that ministers from the Republic of Ghana, West African and Sahel Region states parties can attend the high-level segment.
- If that happens, Cambodia will be pleased to organize the bilateral meetings with the Cambodian ministers to boost bilateral trades and other cooperation opportunities. My Prime Minister already instructed relevant ministers to be ready.
- Therefore, I look forward to seeing you in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

**His Excellency Vice President,
Honourable Ministers,
Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The summit in Siem Reap and this regional conference underscore our collective efforts in addressing the problems of anti-personnel mines. A lot have been done.

But we still have a long way to go. The nature of conflicts has changed, and the anti-personnel mines with improved nature are a new challenge that threatens to undo our progress. The increase in injuries, especially among children and other vulnerable people, reminds us of the urgent need to find new ways to solve these problems.

This conference is a great chance for us to work together more closely, share our knowledge, and come up with new ideas. We are here to take action not just against the dangers from old conflicts but also the current risks from these improvised mines, aiming to keep peace, security, and development.

As we work together, let's remember to always support each other, include everyone, and stay focused on our goal. Let's renew our promise to create a world without the fear and destruction caused by landmines. Together, we can make a safer and better future for everyone.

I want to thank the Government of Ghana, the European Union, the Implementation Support Unit and all the organizations here for their strong support and dedication to this cause. Your help is crucial to our shared goal of a world without mines.

Thank you. I anticipate engaging in fruitful discussions and the emergence of innovative solutions during this conference.