



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
OSLO, NORWAY, 25-29 NOVEMBER 2019

Excellency Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks for inviting us to share the progress made by the Kingdom of Cambodia in its efforts to fulfill its commitments to assist mine victims as agreed upon in the Maputo Action Plan. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mozambique, Belgium, Chile and Italy for the tireless efforts you have given as the Committee on Victim Assistance.

Excellency Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Cambodia is affected by mines and explosive remnants of war left by 30 years of conflict that ended in the 1990s. With determined efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia and with assistance from the United Nations and the international community, Cambodia began its humanitarian mine action program in 1992.

Victim Assistance is part of the large disability and rehabilitation sectors, which has been delegated to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation, to provide physical rehabilitation and social-reintegration services to all People with Disabilities (PWD). However, as a state party to the AP Mine Ban Convention, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) is tasked by the Royal Government of Cambodia to coordinate, monitor and report progress and challenges on victim assistance.

As a State Party to the Convention, Cambodia committed to continue working hard to improve the quality of life for survivors. The Royal Government of Cambodia established various legal frameworks to support the mine and ERW victims as well as persons with disabilities. These include the law on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, the National Disability Strategy Plan 2019-2023, the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023, the Sustainable Development Goals (Goal #18), and the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 and the Three-Year Implementation Plan of NMAS 2018-2020. These frameworks provide roadmaps in supporting mine/ERW victims as well as indirect victims.

The CMAA, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, plays its roles to strengthen coordination, to mobilize resources and technical assistance to support the Mine/ERW survivors and their families. Through this mechanism, relevant government ministries, subnational authorities, NGOs and the private sector actively participate in victim assistance activities. Those activities include the provision of the emergency assistance and medical care to victims, medium to long term physical rehabilitation, vocational training, job placement, psychological and socio-economic support, and addressing the rights and need of the People with Disabilities (for instance, through raising awareness about the services to victims, survivors and their families).

Excellency Chair,

In April 2019, we brought together all relevant victim assistance and disability actors in for two days to discuss improvements in our victim assistance efforts and to review the victim assistance objectives of implementation work plan to achieve the objectives of the Maputo Action Plan. I would like to acknowledge the support we have received from the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in convening this workshop and for ISU's expert advice to our victim assistance efforts.

Our efforts over the two past decades have resulted in the reduction of landmine/ERW casualties from 4,320 persons in 1996, to 58 persons in 2018. Of course, 58 casualties are still too many, and we remain committed to reduce this number to zero, with the support of the international community.

There is a real danger that casualties will increase as a result of growing population and also people moving, through necessity, into new areas who are unaware of the risks. In addition, our database shows that 806 square kilometers is the current magnitude of the landmine problem, posing greater danger to our people. Therefore, continued support and assistance from all development partners remain vital for Cambodia to address these challenges.

The Quality of Life Survey has reached 3,855 persons with disabilities (1,339 female). Of which 797 persons are mine/ERW survivors living in 521 villages, 103 communes, and 45 districts in 21 of the country's provinces. The survey has been routinely conducted by our volunteer survivor networks.

Cambodia organized various forums on disabilities to disseminate the law on the protection and promotion of the right of persons with disabilities, guidelines and other related policies. The needs of persons with disabilities were discussed.

Eleven physical rehabilitation centers, one spinal cord injury center and three repair workshops distributed 26,345 prosthetic and orthotic products, including 1,597 assistive devices and 2,120 walking aids. Local authorities were also encouraged to collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities.

Excellency Chair,

Despite these achievements, Cambodia still faces many challenges, in particular shortages of financial resources. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to call on all partners to continue your financial and technical support so that Cambodia is able to address these problems.

And, knowing the nature and magnitude of the problems as outlined in this statement, would you please let us know what financial, human and technical resources the international community can offer to support Cambodia overcome these challenges.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all donors and partners, especially the Australian and Canadian Governments, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, Exceed Worldwide, the ISU, ICRC, VIC, Humanity & Inclusion, and those whom we have not named here for your invaluable collaboration and contribution to Cambodia in achieving national responsibilities and international obligations to landmine survivors and other Persons With Disabilities.

Thank you.