



CAMBODIA'S STATEMENT AT

THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 16 – 19 APRIL, 2012

**Session on Cooperation and Assistance**

Madam Chair; Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Distinguished Delegates;

Let me first thank and congratulate to Mexico and Spain for the excellent leadership you have given for the Cooperation and Assistance Working Group of the CCM and to make this session happened. And I thank for the invitation and the opportunity to speak in this important session.

Since inception of its mine/CMR action program, Cambodia has been grateful of the opportunity to engage in international cooperation within its own border and beyond. Operators, both national and international have collaborated and shared experiences and expertise under coordination umbrella of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority. A few examples of this type of cooperation can be seen when Cambodia developed its request for AP Mine Ban Convention Article 5 Extension Request; during this process national and international operators had convened together to contribute their expert knowledge to ascertain the remaining contamination problems in the Country. Later, their joint contribution has led to the development of a National Standardize Baseline Survey protocol and the 2010-2019 National Mine Action Strategy. Cooperation with the GICHD and NPA has led to the development of a national land release standard, as currently being effectively implemented by operators. These are just a handful example of cooperation.

Beyond its border, Cambodia has actively engaged in international meetings and forums making effort to meet its AP Mine Ban treaty obligation. Cambodian also extended its expert knowledge to assist other affected states in their effort to enhance their own program through

exchange visits and third country training and knowledge sharing programs fulfilling its obligation under the convention. Moreover, in its effort to address the Cartagena Action Plan, particularly, **Action #36:** Promote technical cooperation, information exchange on good practices and other forms of mutual assistance with other affected States to take advantage of the knowledge and expertise acquired in the course of fulfilling their obligations; **Action #44:** Develop and promote regional cooperation in sharing and effectively using national experiences and good practices, resources, technology and expertise in stockpile destruction and mine clearance, to implement the Convention and to engage the cooperation of regional organizations; **Action #46:** Develop and promote regional and bilateral cooperation in sharing and effectively using national experiences, good practices, resources, technology and expertise in addressing the rights and needs of mine victims and other persons with disabilities, to implement the Convention and to engage the cooperation of regional organizations. Evidence of this type of cooperation can be seen in the tripartite knowledge sharing arrangement with Colombia and Lao PDR supported by Japan.

International valued financial and in kind assistance in form of human capital, equipment, research and development provided by the international community have enable Cambodia to address its landmine/CMR problem from emergency to development phase with reasonable success. They also helped building a human capacity and operating platform that enable Cambodia Mine/CMR Action program to meet the future challenges.

Funding remains the core problems for sustaining mine/CMR action operations to meet the remaining problems especially when most of funding came from international donors and development partners. Actions would be needed to be able to help the National Authority and operators to mobilizing resources and sustain capable human capacity. Let me conclude by thanking to all donors have been and continue to help Cambodia to address this inhumane weapons especially for the implementation of the National Mine Action Strategy through signing on the Government-Donor Partnership Principle document that remain to be opened for more signatures by other donors.

I thank you,