



CAMBODIA'S STATEMENT AT
THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
GENEVA, 07 APRIL 2014

Working Group on Universalization

Madam Coordinator;
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;
Distinguished Delegates;

On behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, let me join other delegations to express my sincere appreciation to the president of the 4MSP for your able leadership and to the organizer for the excellent arrangement of this week intersessional meeting.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey my Prime Minister's sincerest appreciation to Ms. Sarah Blakemore, Director of the Cluster Munition Coalition, in reference to her letter dated March 24, 2014.

Cambodia, as a country severely affected and victimized by the use of mines and Explosive Remnants of War including cluster munitions, is well aware of the devastating impacts of the weapons. The Royal Government of Cambodia remains steadfast in its support to the effective implementation of Mine Ban Treaty, and in its support to the international community in calling for the ban of any indiscriminate uses of cluster munitions against innocent civilians.

As far as Cambodia's position in relation to accession of the Convention on Cluster Munitions is concerned, the Royal Government of Cambodia wishes to reassure that it has thus far taken important steps and actions. Meetings and workshops have been continuously conducted by concerned national agencies to understand substance and discuss provisions of the Convention especially with the documents and materials provided by Norway, GICHD and others. Furthermore, the participation of Cambodia in previous MSPs is a testament of its commitment in support to the Convention, as it genuinely showed in early development of the Oslo process.

Equally important, joining the Convention, however, has been much more on technical and national defense fronts, than political ones. So long as the clarity of which weapons to be categorized as cluster munitions still remains in question under this CCM, in other words the lack of clearly defined definition of cluster munitions given the variety of their kinds, a much more vigorous study among key national technical stakeholders must be made to explore technical matters and to seek a possible consensus, which is of critical importance as far as local contexts and dynamics of national defense and security are concerned. In light of that, the Royal Government of Cambodia wishes to emphasize that the timing for its accession shall be considered once it concludes all relevant assessments. Due to evidence emerged of the new use of Cluster Munitions in South Sudan, Cambodia would like to join UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon, Zambia, Norway and other states to strongly condemn this use.

Let me conclude by thanking all Development Partners who have contributed to Cambodia to clear mine/ERW over the years and for their continuing support to help reduce the painful and persistent legacies of the conflicts that inhibited Cambodia and wish you all a success in your noble causes, and this intersessional meeting a fruitful event.

Thank you!