



**STATEMENT OF H.E. CHUM BUN RONG,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CAMBODIAN MINE ACTION AND VICTIM
ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY (CMAA)
ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION
AT CARTAGENA SUMMIT ON MINE-FREE WORLD
CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA
(29 November- 04 December 2009)**

**Madam President Susan Eckey;
Excellencies;
Distinguished Delegates;**

It is a great pleasure and honour for me, on behalf of the Cambodian delegation, to have this opportunity to briefly share how Cambodia is responding to the needs of victims as well as its status in implementing of the 2005-2009 Nairobi Action Plan. Our delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the international community for their tireless moral and technical support to Cambodian victims. We also would like to thank the Government of Colombia for the excellent arrangement of this summit and acknowledge the importance of the Second Review Conference in helping to maintain international attention on the Mine Ban Treaty. This is critical to providing a global picture of priorities, and to strengthen cooperation and mobilise resources toward successful and effective implementation of the Treaty.

It is sad to report that even though the number of casualties both military and civilian has decreased from more than 4,300 per year in 1996 to 200 to date in 2009 the total number of mine and ERW victims is more than 63,000 in Cambodia. This means that Cambodia is one of the 26 most mine affected countries in the world.

It is significant to note that over the past ten years, especially since the Nairobi Summit 2005, there have been some very successful disability/victim assistance programs, many funded by AusAID, CRC, HI, UNICEF, USAID and DFID, and most often being delivered by non-governmental partner organizations. There are some disability services now available in all 24 provinces in Cambodia. The Royal Government of Cambodia through the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) has delegated the responsibility for victim assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs,

Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and the Disability Action Council (DAC). MoSVY and DAC have worked hard to establish sustainable national Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services which are expected to help address some of the gaps in services available for persons with disabilities.

Although great progress has been made to address mine and ERW victims' needs, unfortunately, they are often the poorest of the poor in Cambodia and their sustainable living conditions are not secure and need to be improved. As our Government's budget is limited, many victims are still not able to meet their basic human needs for shelter, food, health, physical rehabilitation, vocational training, job opportunities and education.

Madam President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

While facing these tremendous difficulties and in particular the impact of the world economic crisis, I would like to now outline the outstanding achievements that have been made by Cambodia to help improve the welfare of people with disabilities including land mine victims.

- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed by our Government in October 2007
- With strong commitment and political will, the Royal Government of Cambodia, through the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) focused its resources to successfully get the Law on "Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" passed by the National Assembly and promulgated by the King on 03 July 2009
- The National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities including Landmine/ERW Survivors (NPA) was adopted by the Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia in August 2009
- A well-organized mechanism has been developed to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities.

Despite these major achievements, there are some challenges that remain:

- There are insufficient services supporting People with Disabilities including mine victims, particularly in remote areas and effort needs to be made to ensure disability inclusion in mainstream services in health, education, vocational training and employment etc.
- Moreover, there is limited technical knowledge among groups working to provide services for people with disabilities. Capacity needs to be further improved and strengthened to ensure continued progress in the implementation of both the Law and the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities.

- Multi-sectoral collaboration and co-operation between government, donor, civil society and disabled peoples' organisations are also needed to ensure the full integration of people with disabilities into Cambodian society. Collaboration is required to ensure the adequate and coordinated delivery of health care and physical rehabilitation services, education and skills training, as well as credit or small grants to support livelihood initiatives. This would in turn help to mainstream people with disabilities (including mine victims) into existing programmes and services and ensure that they are an integral part of society.

To this end, allow me to conclude that comprehensive and sustainable rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration services and programs for people with disabilities (including victims) can only be guaranteed by a constructive and co-ordinated partnership and improved resourcing. This partnership must involve relevant bodies, governments, international and national organizations, donors, businesses and religious communities as well as persons with disabilities who have a strong commitment, to contributing resources, and to sharing their knowledge and experience.

Thank you for your attention.