



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

Statement by Cambodia on Victim Assistance

June 24, 2014, Maputo, Mozambique

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Taking this great opportunity, on behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks for inviting us to share some of the progress made by Cambodia on efforts to fulfill the commitments made in the Cartagena Action Plan to assist the victims.

Cambodia, through the support of CMAA, undertook an assessment of progress in implementing the 11 actions on Victim Assistance in the Cartagena Action Plan. The full report is available on request. It is hoped that the assessment report will contribute to building collaboration and cooperation amongst disability stakeholders in Cambodia, and will contribute to strengthening coordination to implement the Maputo Action Plan effectively and efficiency.

In relation to understanding the challenges faced, the CMAA's Cambodian Mine/ERW Victim Information System (CMVIS) indicates that the number of landmine/ERW accidents have declined from 286 casualties in 2010 to 111 casualties in 2013; 45 mine/ERW accidents were recorded in the first four months of 2014. From 1979 to April 2014, a total of 64,385 mine/ERW casualties were recorded by CMVIS. Of these casualties, 50,920 (79%) were caused by landmines and 13,465 (21%) by other ERW; 19,694 (31%) people were killed, 35,752 (55%) people suffered various injuries with 8,939 (14%) people requiring amputations, Of the total casualties, 52,224 (81%) were men, 5,972 (9%) were boys (age<18), 4,754 (08%) were women, 1,372 (2%) were girls (age<18); the gender of 63 casualties is unknown.

The Quality of Life Survey (QLS) of mine survivors and other persons with disability has been conducted by CMAA in collaboration with the Cambodian Campaign to Ban Landmines in 2012-2013. Based on the findings, a series of recommendations for both national and sub-national levels were made to promote the rights and address the needs

of survivors in the broader context of disability and development. At the same time, the survivor network has been created in 15 provinces by encouraging people to think about their situation and their futures across the country, to take action and realize they have human rights enshrined in the law, both in Cambodia and internationally.

In relation to planning, the National Disability Strategic Plan (NDSP) 2014-2018 has been finalized and is expected to be adopted in July 2014 by the Prime Minister. The NDSP includes four goals and 10 key objectives, all of which are relevant to addressing the rights and needs of survivors.

In 2014, the efforts of the government will be supported by the Disability Rights Initiative Cambodia program. This is a new 5-year joint program to be implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and the WHO, with funding from Australia. The program will contribute to and support the implementation of the NDSP 2014-2018 and the CRPD.

Mr. President,

Cambodia is committed to working to improve the quality of life of survivors, through efforts to uphold their rights and meet their needs. An improvement in the quality of daily life begins in the community. We are committed to ensuring implementation and monitoring of efforts at the district, commune, and village level. The village community with its village leader will be strongly encouraged to treat survivors and other people with disability with respect, acknowledging their abilities, upholding their rights and meeting their needs.

For the next 5 years, CMAA will participate in the coordination mechanism for the NDSP and monitor implementation to ensure that the rights and needs of survivor are being addressed, in the broader context of disability. Where gaps are identified, CMAA will advocate for greater attention to meet Cambodia's obligation to assist the victims under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Mr. President,

The achievements in implementing the Cartagena Action Plan have resulted in a gradual improvement in the status of people with disability, including mine survivors. Despite these achievements, Cambodia faces many challenges such as the limitation of financial support, and human and technical resources to continue to promote the implementation of both international and national obligations to benefit persons with disability including mine survivors. Together with our partners, we will continue to work to address these challenges.

Taking this great opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our donors and partners, especially Australia, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO for their invaluable

Final

collaboration and contributions to Cambodia in order to fulfill our national responsibilities and our international obligations to landmine survivors and other people with disability.

Thank you very much.