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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

Head of Delegation to the Fifth Meeting
of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention

Intervention

**H.E. Sam Sotha, Secretary-General
Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance
Authority – C.M.A.A.
to the Standing Committee on
Victim Assistance and Socio Economic Re-integration
Geneva - 04 February 2003**

Mr. Chairman

The Cambodian Delegation joint me thank you for this opportunity to report of Cambodian 2003 achievements on victim assistance to this Standing Committee and the efforts of the national authority, Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) towards these endeavors.

As you may know we have delegated our coordination responsibility on victim assistance to the Disability Action Council -known DAC – a key autonomous NGO in Cambodia. DAC has previously reported victim assistance to this meeting. However, DAC is at this time undergoing restructure. The CMAA has contributed to the management of the restructuring process and will continue to be involved management of DAC at a Governing Board level.

Mr. Chairman

In 2003 the CMAA has assisted with two main developments:

- Drafted a mechanism of Demining Process and relationships of organizations interaction of victims into the mainstream

- Prepared a Victim Assistance Framework and developed priorities for Mine Victim Assistance for inclusion in the Five Year Mine Action Plan.

Following the plans developed in 2003, this year will see activity in the areas that we see as a priority:

- Victim Assistance Strategic Plan integrated into Five Year Mine Action Plan
- Development of the NGO network that delivers services to mine victims. With this respect, I would like to inform the meeting that last month the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labors, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation has organized a national workshop of Business Advisory Council, the council provided jobs opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Continue to participation in the regional meetings and seminars on Victim Assistance
- Development of a pilot project on the Socio-economic development of mine affected villages
- The collection of relevant data for the CMAA database. This will also include the list of services available through mainstream NGOs
- A reporting framework that will inform the sector, the Government and the donor community, about all activities in Victim Assistance nationally.

In many ways 2004 is an important year for Victim Assistance in Cambodia and we are looking forward to implementing a number of activities for the benefit of all mine victims.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.