



**CAMBODIA STATEMENT
ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION
AT 10th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE AP MINE BAN
CONVENTION**

29 November to 03 December 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of Cambodian delegation, I am pleased to share the progress and efforts undertaken by our Government to address the needs and rights of persons with disabilities including landmine/ERW survivors at this important meeting.

We would also like to confirm that, as a state party, Cambodia is committed to fulfil its obligations as required by the Convention, to mobilise its available resources to do its utmost, in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of mine victims and other persons with disabilities.

According to National Census 2008, 1.4% of our total population (approx. 200,000) are having disabilities including over 44,000 landmine/ERW survivors in Cambodia as of November 2010.

Person with disabilities and landmine survivors in Cambodia still face overwhelming needs, although efforts have been made by our government with its limited resources together with donors and development partners to address their needs.

Mr. President, Our Government in close cooperation with other development partners and civil society has done its part to create an appropriate institutional structure in order to respond to the many priority challenges.

I would like to highlight some outstanding achievements in 2010 to help improve the social welfare policy for persons with disabilities including landmine/ERW survivors.

I. Policy Framework

- Translated into Khmer of the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration: ON IMPLEMENTING THE CARTAGENA ACTION PLAN
- Prepared relevant documents to proceed with the ratification of the UNCRPD
- Developed required legal documents to ensure implementation of the Law on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities promulgated in July 2009. 3 Sub-Decrees have been issued: 1) Sub-Decree on the Organization and Functioning of Disability Action Council (DAC) as a National Coordinating Body on Disability, 2) Sub-Decree on the Quota Employment System for Persons with Disabilities, 3) Sub-Decree on the Organization and Functioning of Disability Fund

- Issued an edict (Prakas) on the Creation of Disability Rights Administration (DRA) which has responsibility to monitor the implementation of the disability law
- Promoted Implementation of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities, including Landmine/ERW Survivors (NPA) (2009-2011), which has given prominence to the achievements in disability sector activities in Cambodia
- Provided guidelines for government and NGOs to work and focus on priorities in strengthening and expanding welfare and rehabilitation services
- Enacted an Education for Children with Disabilities Master Plan (2009-2011) to ensure the rights to education of children with disabilities
- Issued National Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Guidelines for Cambodia, which is vital for operators in improving capacities relating to the provision of CBR services.

II. Coordinating Mechanism

- Disability Action Council (DAC) has been formally recognised by the law. DAC is the national coordination and advisory mechanism on disability issues with 28 members from all relevant ministries/institutions, and persons with disabilities.
- National Disability Committee Coordination (NDCC), which has a multi-stakeholder representation, was established in 2009 with mission to monitor, coordinate, evaluate and promote the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities, including Landmine/ERW Survivors (NPA).

Although these are major achievements but challenges are still remaining. There are still inadequate technical, managerial, financial and resources to ensure sustainability of services to address the needs of persons with disabilities including landmine survivors in Cambodia. We have observed that the key for success is very much depending on:

- Strong commitment and support from leaders
- Involvement and understanding of persons with disabilities and their families
- Support and contribution from NGOs and development partners
- Public awareness on disability

Let me conclude by saying that comprehensive and sustainable rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration services/programs can only be guaranteed by a collaborative and co-ordinated partnership involving relevant bodies, IOs/NGOs, the business and religious communities and persons with disabilities.

I would like to take this occasion to thank the respective governments, UN agencies, IOs and NGOs who contribute to address the needs of persons with disabilities including mine/ERW victims in Cambodia.

Thank you for your attention.