



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**Nation Religion King**  
**Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties to the AP Mine Ban Convention**  
**Assisting the Victims**  
**Statement by Cambodia**  
**Delivered by H.E. Sem Sokha, Secretary of State**  
**Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)**  
29 November 2011  
Peace Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

President, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to share the experiences of Cambodia in assisting the victims of landmines with the States Parties and a wide range of international and national actors who are committed to addressing the rights and needs of victims, survivors and other persons with disabilities.

Cambodia has a responsibility to assist significant numbers of landmine survivors and the families of those killed or injured. To address our obligations under the Convention, in 2009, the Government adopted the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities, including Landmine/ERW Survivors. The development of the National Plan was a collaborative effort under the initiative of MoSVY and CMAA in coordination with the Disability Action Council and other stakeholders working on disability related issues.

The National Plan aims to address the rights and needs of all persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors. The Plan provides a positive example of the concept that victim assistance can be integrated into broader national policies, plans and dialogues.

For almost three years, the line ministries and other relevant actors have been implementing this National Plan.

In August 2011, MoSVY initiated a process to review the status of implementation of the National Plan as a basis for identifying the challenges and determining the next steps for disability sector-related activities after the end of 2011. The review process is being led by the Disability Action Council in collaboration with CMAA and with assistance from the Implementation Support Unit.

I take this opportunity to highlight some of the achievements in implementing the National Plan. A more detailed interim report is also available.

There are 43 implementing partners including line ministries, service providers and related NGOs who are involved in the review process. The responsible government ministries and institutions include MoSVY, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and CMAA. All clearly understand the issues of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities and work together to promote the rights and quality of life of persons with disabilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'KS' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

The National Plan of Action includes the six components of victim assistance. Progress in achieving the objectives, include:

To enhance understanding the extent of the challenges:

- The Cambodian Mine Victim Information System maintains comprehensive data on landmine casualties. CMVIS has registered more than 63,950 landmines and other ERW casualties since 1979.
- An inter-ministerial Prakas on Type and Level of Disability Classification has been amended to promote the effective implementation of the disability legislation.
- Other actors have collected disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors, at the provincial and district level.

Relating to emergency and continuing medical care:

- The Ministry of Health in collaboration with MoSVY, CMAA, the Cambodian Red Cross and other service providers are collaborating to promote the provision of appropriate emergency medical care for landmine and other accident victims. In addition, we are strengthening the provision of healthcare for persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors, at referral health centres at the provincial, district and commune level.
- In 2009, the MoH endorsed a letter ordering health centres at all levels to provide free healthcare for persons with disabilities and victims.

In the area of physical rehabilitation:

- Since 2008, MoSVY has been implementing a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Cambodia Trust, Handicap International Belgium, Handicap International France, and Veterans International Cambodia which aims to facilitate government ownership and the provision of quality services in the 11 Physical Rehabilitation Centres. To date progress includes:
  - Standard management and operating procedures for centres has been drafted;
  - MoSVY adopted a Prakas on Organization and Functioning of Physical Rehabilitation Centres in 2009;
  - MoSVY took over management of the centres in Siem Reap and Takao with financial support from HIB in 2011;
  - MoSVY's budget has increased year by year to enable greater support to the PRCs;
  - 51 NGO staff from all PRCs are now civil servants paid by the government; and
  - Staff at the PRCs receives regular skills training to upgrade their technical capacities.
- In addition, in 2009, MoSVY took over full responsibility of the Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Centre in Battambang from Handicap International France.
- In 2010, the Government established the Persons with Disabilities Foundation which is responsible for managing the physical rehabilitation centres.
- In 2011, the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics was integrated into the National Institute of Social Affairs.

In the area psychological support and economic and social inclusion, progress has been made particularly in improving access to education and livelihoods. To date, 78,714 children and adults with disabilities have been enrolled in education facilities. Vocational training courses have mainly focused on electronics, motor repair, handicrafts, tailoring, sculpture, computers, fish-raising, farming, agriculture and small grant business. To date, approximately 16,297 persons with disabilities have graduated from vocational training courses, of which 65% are in self-employment or have jobs. In addition, 1,900 self-help groups have been formed throughout the country.

The main achievements since 2009 have been in the area of legislation and policies. Many of these have been reported previously, including the 2009 Law on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2011, the Policy on Supporting the Poor Persons with Disabilities in the Community was adopted.

In addition, the government is in the process of ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Despite the achievements, the government continues to face significant challenges to improve the quality of daily life of survivors and other persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas. Addressing these challenges will only be possible through effective coordination and the shared commitment of all actors, including the relevant line ministries, persons with disabilities, the donor community, international agencies and non-governmental organizations, working together towards a common goal.

I take this opportunity to thank all our implementing partners and the donors who are supporting our collective efforts. In particular, I would like to thank the government of Australia through AusAID for supporting the development of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities including Landmine/ERW Survivors and its review and for their ongoing support to the work of my Ministry, the Disability Action Council and the disability sector as a whole.

To conclude, this meeting provides a valuable opportunity for all States to share good practices in addressing the rights and needs of people with disabilities, including landmine survivors. The meeting provides an opportunity to consider ways to constructively work together to remove barriers that limit the potential for the equal participation of persons with disabilities in the daily life of their communities.

I wish all delegates a successful 11MSP and warm stay in Cambodia, the kingdom of wonder.

Thank you!