



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



STATEMENT BY

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AT THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE TO THE
ADOPTION OF THE POLITICAL DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING
THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS FROM THE HUMANITARIAN
CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM THE USE OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS
IN POPULATED AREAS (EWIPA)

23 April 2024, Oslo

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1. At the outset, Cambodia is honored to participate in the first international follow up conference of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Norway, for convening this conference, providing endorsing States, international and regional organizations, civil society, private sector, and academia with an opportunity to discuss progress, opportunities, and challenges to enhance the protection of civilians in armed conflict.
2. I share the prevailing concern over the growing global instability and geopolitical tensions we all witness at present.¹ Without our bold and urgent action, the world will see further increases in poverty, hunger, and more entrenched cycles of instability and conflict. Cambodia shares a sense of urgency on the need to galvanize strong political will to rebuild mutual trust and refocus concerted efforts on the advancement of the global common good, on preventing and de-escalating conflicts, and on building long-lasting peace and security.²
3. Cambodia acknowledged that the widespread use of explosive weapons in populated areas in conflicts across the world has killed thousands of civilians. It has at the same time damaged water supplies, electricity, and other civilian infrastructure and harmed the environment which triggers domino effects that exacerbate suffering. Victims struggle to rebuild their lives against all odds; their homes have been destroyed; essential service networks have collapsed; and the threat of explosive remnant of war is everywhere.

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4. This Year, the Kingdom of Cambodia is honored to host the Fifth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction from 25-29 November 2024 at Siem Reap Province where the deadly legacy of landmines has been overcome. Cambodia acknowledged that the rise in conflicts and the explosive remnant of war necessitate our unwavering

¹ Statement Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN MANET Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

² Cambodia Statement at the Second Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

commitment to strengthening international humanitarian law, human rights, and human security.

5. In the year leading up to the Fifth Review Conference, we find ourselves at a unique juncture to:
 - stress that important lifesaving work remains to be done, and we must collectively strive to do more and do better.
 - Refocusing the world's attention on the humanitarian imperative of the Convention is paramount. Raising awareness of its importance in ensuring the well-being and human rights of survivors and persons with disabilities is essential
 - Implement of Article 5: Survey, clearance, mine risk education, and risk reduction are paramount to ensuring no future victims and alleviating current suffering in mine-affected communities.
6. We are looking forward to sharing our experiences from the last decades and supporting all States Parties in achieving our common goal of "ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines."³

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7. In conclusion, I would like to recall the UN Secretary General's appeals for parties to conflict to refrain from the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas, owing to the widespread and predictable pattern of harm that results from such use.
8. I am confident that, as we embark on this journey together, we will further strengthen the bonds of international cooperation and renew our dedication to strengthening the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Let us focus on the future with hope and optimism by drawing inspiration from the progress we have made and the lives we have saved. We are making significant efforts to make the world a safer place. Cambodia, together with the other states, international organizations, and civil society that have gathered at this very occasion, will continue to contribute to the international efforts, to mitigate the harm to civilians.

I, Thank you.

³ Statement of H.E. Dr. Ly Thuch Senior Minister and Head of the Cambodian Delegation at The Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.