



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

H.E MR. RY TUY

AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Thematic Debate:
Conventional Weapons

FIRST COMMITTEE

The 71th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 20 October 2016

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

While associate myself with the statements made on behalf of NAM and ASEAN, I wish to deliver this statement on my national capacity.

The consequences of the rifts between nations at conflicts or war, have interrupted the peaceful existence of their fellow human beings. These conflicts will result in the taking up of arms. As a country emerged from long period of internal conflicts, we know the suffering and consequences from small arms.

What brings us to worry is that the low cost and the ease of operations makes it available worldwide and this breeds conflict and civilian fatalities and may hinder efforts to development.

The end of flows of arms would require strong international norms, one of which is the core value of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. These commitments have been revitalized through the outcome of the BMS6 in June 2016, which necessitate us to live up to our commitments either at national, regional or international level.

Cambodia has integrated the UN Programme in its national agenda in order to manage small arms and light weapons so as to ensure peace and security in the country. Cambodia shares the concern over the rise in illicit manufacture, transfer and spread of small arms and light weapons, and most of all the excessive accumulation and the spread of these weapons, which have become wider. Therefore, it is important that we work collectively on arms control, prevention and suppression of arms smuggling across the region.

For its parts and with a long experience in addressing small arms, Cambodia serves as a voluntary Lead Shepherd against arms and smuggling in the ASEAN region. Regionally, we are working to develop a draft ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Firearms. We believe that such convention would complement the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The convention which is set to take shape would assist countries in the region to deal with our diverse national challenges in the fight against illicit trafficking in firearms. The convention would also intend to establish a criminalization of the offence of trafficking in firearms.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN Regional Mines Action Centre (ARMAC)

As a post conflict country, Cambodia, one of the most landmine-polluted countries, is still suffering from unexploded ordnance (UXO) and Explosive Remnants of War hidden underground either at the farming fields or borders. Although, so far the victims of these explosives and land mines are lesser in number than the past decades, we still need to persistently accelerate the activities on mine clearance. Thus we continue to count on support from our dialogue partners and agencies. Cambodia attaches importance to the Ottawa Convention.

On regional efforts, ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) Headquarters based in Cambodia looks forwards to provide expert trainings in mine related activities, as well as to facilitate cooperation with other countries as well as relevant institutions, including UNMAS and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Thank you

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