



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

General debate

First Committee

The 71th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

My delegation sincerely congratulates you as the Chair of the First Committee for this current session, and we assure you of our cooperation and full support.

Cambodia aligns itself with the statements delivered respectively on behalf of NAM and ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear Disarmament

The growing rifts in parts of the world have brought concern to us in particular to the core value of sustaining peace and security. We are experiencing tensions arising from long or short term conflicts. What is important is that we must have mechanisms of guaranteeing that nuclear weapons are not to be used. Thus the failure to reach consensus at the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May last year is disappointing us.

Therefore, my delegation wishes to see active engagement from both nuclear weapons and non-nuclear weapon states through positive attitude to reach the final goal of the NPT.

Cambodia joins others in welcoming Myanmar and Swaziland on its respective ratification of the CTBT and view that while we are anticipating the Treaty to become universal through its entry into force, states should refrain from conducting nuclear-weapon test or any other nuclear explosion which would undermine the objective of the Treaty. Although CTBT has yet to enter into force for the past 20th year, we can see the significance of this global non-proliferation regime, which obliges us to continuously strengthen it.

UNSC Resolution 1540 and SEANWFZ

To reiterate our commitments in line with the global efforts, in 2014 Cambodia in cooperation with the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs organized two consecutive workshops on Asia 2014 Conference on the Non-Conventional Treaty on Chemical, Biological, Nuclear Explosive, and on the Implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004).

Additionally, an international workshop on Nuclear Safeguards and the Additional Protocol took place in Cambodia in April 2016.

On regional efforts, a region free from nuclear weapons is a core value of Southeast Asia as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, and that is why we are working to strengthen the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) through laying out and subsequently reviewing Plan of Action from time to time. Moving forward is to ensure the signing of the Treaty by the Nuclear Weapons States.

Mr. Chairman,

Conventional weapons:

The presence of land mines and explosive remnants of war is still posing threats to human security and national development agenda. 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, and therefore we highly commend the firm solidarity among all States Parties to this convention, as well as all concerned international and non-governmental organizations, and others stakeholders, who are collectively contributing towards a "Mine-Free World". We also look forward to the forthcoming meeting of the States Parties in November in Santiago, Chile.

Regionally recognizing the need to address mines issues, ASEAN welcomes the official inauguration of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) Headquarters in Phnom Penh in May 2016, which serves as a Regional Centre of Excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of unexploded ordinance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in interested ASEAN Member States and facilitates cooperation with other countries as well as relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Mr. Chairman

Cambodia shares the concern over the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons as well as their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in the many regions. My country joins ASEAN and other countries in calling for the Secretariat to strengthen capacity through education and to assist member states on best practices in physical stockpile management and security.

Recognizing the severity of SALW problem in the region, Cambodia integrated the UN Programme in its national agenda in order to combat illegal flow of arms as well as to provide peace and security in the country. Our smooth progress on small arms management has been driven by assistance from our Dialogue Partners such as the EU, Japan and our national Law of the Management of Weapons and Explosives and Ammunition adopted 10 years ago. The success of our weapons management helped to stabilize the country, and thus contribute to the economic development.

In March 2016, in Siem Reap province of Cambodia, the Workshop funded by the EU aimed to review the United Nations and other instruments on small arms, notably the Arms Trade Treaty, regional experience in controlling the movement of small arms and especially Cambodia's draft ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Firearms (ACTIF). We believe that such convention would aim to complement to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which would strengthen the ASEAN Member States' capability and capacity to identify and track the smuggling of arms in the region.

Mr. Chairman

In concluding, my delegation believes that we have the shared responsibilities to move forwards with fruitful negotiations towards the non-proliferation of weapons and to avert taking up of arms as means to address conflicts which have been raging parts of our world.

I thank you, Chair.

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