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United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
**Fifth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction**

Siem-Reap, Cambodia

**Statement under agenda item 8 (e) Other matters essential for achieving the aims of
the Convention: (i) Cooperation and Assistance**

[delivered by Ms. Christelle Loupforest on Thursday, 28 November]

Mr. President¹,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)².

Thirty-two years ago, in 1992, the demining activities of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) were taken over by the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC). By March 1993, CMAC had trained more than 1,600 Cambodian deminers and established 11 mine clearance training centres; by May it had compiled 80 per cent of a country-wide minefield data base, and by June it had assembled 40 demining teams, 10 mine marking teams and 10 explosive ordnance disposal teams. The rest is history.

¹ Dr. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), President of the Fifth Review Conference “The Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free Worlds”.

² The United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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As a country that has benefited from international assistance to address its extensive contamination problem, we commend Cambodia for emerging as such a strong contributor of mine action expertise to other countries. This epitomizes international solidarity.

Dear Delegates,

Five years ago, in Oslo, we concluded an ambitious plan with measurable indicators. We knew there would be challenges, not least of which related to the use of IEDs, but we were prepared for them. Now five years later, the world looks very different, and we feel the impact of several ongoing active armed conflicts.

Never have we seen such a clear causal link between food security and mine action as we do in the context of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This has caused a whole new range of economic and food security actors to play a role in mine action as investors, clients or partners. Furthermore, the funding available to a wide array of mine action actors in Ukraine presents an opportunity for developing and scaling up innovation for the sector. Similar investments are needed in Africa and the Middle East to accelerate post-conflict recovery strategies.

The important investment in mine action in Ukraine should not be at the expense of international assistance for other affected countries. The United Nations has heard calls for assistance from neglected countries, but we require unearmarked contributions, including through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action, that allow for flexible and rapid response and ensure continuity of programming. Such contributions unfortunately are becoming rarer, despite consistent advocacy and efforts to diversify funding sources.

This leads me to my next point: the UN IACG MA is doing more with less. We are focusing on our respective comparative advantages combined with strategic partnerships to make progress in mine action. One example of this has been the Mine Action Area of Responsibility



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under the Global Protection Cluster, which is active in 16 different countries, and where more than 200 partners collaborate to protect people at risk of mines and other explosive ordnance in humanitarian emergencies. In this regard, I would like to thank the national and international non-governmental organizations who partner with the United Nations to offer reliable coordination for humanitarian mine action in emergencies, build strategic partnerships, enhance capacity, promote equality, diversity and inclusion in operations and workforce, and contribute to solutions in collaboration with peace and development actors.

The Danish Refugee Council, Danish Church Aid, Humanity and Inclusion, and Mines Advisory Group have actively contributed to the success of the Mine Action AoR. By building connections with other humanitarian organizations, sharing analysis and planning activities together, we reach more people in need of protection and humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian clusters (e.g., protection, education) and EORE working groups have helped to harmonise approaches and messaging for refugees and internally displaced communities crossing borders which may be contaminated with explosive ordnance.

With our steadfast partner, the GICHD, the United Nations will once again hold a day specifically dedicated to supporting national directors based on an agenda they will set. We look forward to repeating this innovative approach introduced at the 27th meeting of the NDM-UN last April. I would also like to thank all partners who collaborate with us to develop international mine action standards.

My last point: the Siem Reap action plan will require the continued generosity of States, new investors, donor coordination and perseverance. We encourage those in a position to assist to continue as much as possible to advocate for sustained and increased support towards the implementation of this Convention in countries which deserve to recover from the legacy of war.



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As the example of Cambodia illustrates, it takes time and leadership to recover but it is worth the investment.

Thank you.

END