



Time Limitation:7 minutes

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

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Briefing by

**His Excellency CHHEA KEO**

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of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

United Nations Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting

“Safeguarding Lives, Sustaining Peace: Enhancing Mine Action for  
Stabilization, Protection, Recovery, and Inclusion”

Date: New York, 12 December 2024

Time: 4:30pm-6:00pm

Location: Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarter

Format: Two Briefers, Security Council Members

**H.E. Ambassador YAMAZAKI Kazuyuki**, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations and Chair of the Arria-Formula Meeting,

**Mr. Jean Pierre Lacroix**, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations,

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

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1. **First of all**, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Japan for convening this important United Nations Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting under the theme “**Safeguarding Lives, Sustaining Peace: Enhancing Mine Action for Stabilization, Protection, Recovery, and Inclusion**”.
2. I believe this Arria Formula meeting provides a significant opportunity for participants to gain deeper insights into the broader context and the critical roles that Member States have taken to address the threats posed to civilians by landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).
3. For Cambodia, it is a profound honor to have presided over the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and its Fifth Review Conference, held this past November in Siem Reap under the theme “**The Siem Reap Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World**”.
4. The conference brought together approximately 700 delegates from 106 countries, alongside representatives from 58 international organizations, reflecting a shared global commitment to addressing the scourge of landmines. It also provided a vital platform for both States Parties and non-party States to reaffirm their dedication to the humanitarian objectives of the Convention and its overarching goal of ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.
5. Under the Presidency of Cambodia, the following priorities were identified:
  - 1. Universalization of the Convention:** Cambodia emphasizes the importance of more states joining the family of States Parties to strengthen the norm against the use of anti-personnel mines. Currently, 164 states have agreed to be bound by the Convention, with over 80% of the world's states committed to not using,

developing, producing, stockpiling, retaining, or transferring anti-personnel mines. Despite limited progress since 2017, Cambodia welcomed the Kingdom of Tonga's efforts to accede to the Convention during the Siem Reap Angkor Summit.

**2. Implementation of Article 5 of the Convention:** This is crucial for fulfilling obligations related to the destruction of anti-personnel mines. As the president of the 5th Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention, Cambodia received requests for deadline extensions from Afghanistan, Chad, Cyprus, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Peru, and Serbia, all of which were unanimously granted.

**3. Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World:** The conference adopted two key documents: the Siem Reap Angkor Declaration on a Mine-Free World 2024, titled “A Renewed Commitment for a Safer Future,” and the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029. These documents reaffirmed member states' commitment to the Convention's norms and provided a roadmap for national and international efforts until 2029. The plan incorporates best practices and lessons learned since the Convention's entry into force 25 years ago, with a particular reference to the Oslo Action Plan's implementation review in 2019.

## **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

6. **Cambodia's journey from international aid recipient to global leader in mine action** is a testament to resilience, determination, and leadership. As one of the birthplaces of the Convention, Cambodia has faced significant challenges due to landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) from conflicts spanning the 1960s to 1998.
7. **In response**, Cambodia developed a comprehensive mine action strategy with the concerted efforts of the government, local communities, and international partners. Key to this success has been an unwavering commitment to capacity building, innovation, and international collaboration.
8. **By September 2024**, Cambodia cleared and released 3,168 square kilometers of contaminated land and destroyed over one million anti-personnel mines and approximately three million ERWs, including cluster munitions. However, 1,658 square kilometers remain contaminated, with 393 square kilometers affected by anti-personnel mines.

9. **Today**, Cambodia stands as a beacon of what can be achieved through dedication and cooperation. From receiving aid to becoming a leader in global mine action, Cambodia shares its expertise with other nations. It has conducted humanitarian demining trainings for experts from Ukraine and Colombia and hosted study visits for delegates from Armenia, China, Laos, and others.
  
10. **In closing**, Cambodia's success story is a powerful reminder that with vision and commitment, even the most formidable challenges can be overcome, paving the way for a safer and more prosperous future for all. The Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World symbolizes this collective commitment to peace, human dignity, and solidarity. Together, we are transforming the painful memories of conflict into a future built on hope, resilience, and peace.

**Thank you for your attention!**