STATEMENT
By H.E. TUY RY, Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the UN
10 October 2014
At the General Debate
Of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, allow me to join previous colleagues in congratulating you on your assumption as Chair of the First Committee and would like to assure Cambodia’s support and cooperation for the success of our Meeting in the areas of disarmament and international security.

While my country aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement, and the Permanent Representative of the Philippines on behalf of ASEAN, I wish to share Cambodia’s views on the agenda of all disarmament and international security.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear Disarmament

Despite the slow progress in the field of disarmament, we have, over the years, worked relentlessly through the UN and other regional mechanisms and the international fora to reach our common objectives on issues of the nuclear non-proliferation.

Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation are constantly on the agenda for our discussion here at the United Nations and elsewhere at regional and other international fora. Therefore we should work harder to live up to our commitments agreed on at the 2010 NPT Review Conference and anticipate to take up more commitments at the next Review Conference in 2015.

My delegation continues to attach its importance to the Convention on the Test Ban Treaty, which Cambodia signed and ratified in 2000. While looking forward to its entry into force, Cambodia is of the view that deliberations on all provisions of CTBT need to be reviewed accordingly.

Cambodia welcomes the first Commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons” at the Ministerial level which was held on the sidelines of the 69th Session of the UNGA’s General Debate here in New York, which once again reiterated the international commitment and mobilized international efforts to work further towards a nuclear-free world.

Along the line, the Royal Government of Cambodia in cooperation with the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs will be hosting the following two consecutive workshops:


On regional efforts, all ASEAN Member States have continued to engage with the Nuclear Weapons States-P5 to sign the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ). My delegation commends the Working Level Meeting between ASEAN Member States and the Nuclear Weapons States recently held here in New York on 8 October 2014. Cambodia envisions the commitment expressed by the two sides to move forward to the signing of the Protocol of the Treaty at an earliest opportunity.

While considering that the NPT remains the cornerstone to address nuclear weapons, Cambodia welcomes the positive outcomes of the third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the NPT held in New York from 28 April to 9 May 2014. It is important that we evaluate the results of the NPT over the years and move forwards to the next 5 years for our implementation of the treaty.

It is also my delegation’s conviction that the Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East would be convened soon.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**ASEAN Regional Mines Action Centre (ARMAC)**

The presence of land mines and explosive remnants of war are still recognized to pose constant threats to human security and national development agenda. Regionally recognizing the need to address mine issues since 2012, ASEAN has been working towards establishing an ASEAN Regional Mines Action Centre (ARMAC) to be based in Cambodia. In this regard, we welcome the humanitarian and technical assistance from international donors for the support of the activities of the center for the smooth process of the Centre.

Furthermore, Cambodia will organize a regional Seminar on the establishment of the Regional Mines Action Centre on 18—19 October in Seam Reap with the participation from ASEAN Member States and other relevant national and international institutions.

Back in 2012, The Permanent Mission of Cambodia co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Australia the photographic exhibition to celebrate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in New York. The exhibition captured the attention of the world to landmines issues and made the voice of the landmines victims heard and also show vividly the costs of mines and explosive remnants of war, even long after the conflict ended.

By committing to the mine ban movement, in 2011, Cambodia was honoured to assume the presidency of the 11th Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. With that Meeting, the Mine Ban Treaty was returning to a place where it all started 20 years ago from human tragedy and suffering of the victims in Cambodia and in other similar regions such as in Mozambique, Angola, Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina where the commitment to put an end to these inhumane and deadly weapons, was born.
We highly commend the firm solidarity among all States Parties to the Convention, as well as all concerned international and non-governmental organizations, and others stakeholders, who have collectively worked towards our noble cause for a Mine-Free World.

**Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**

Joining the International Community on their concerns over the continued loss of human lives due to armed conflicts, Cambodia with other countries signed the Arms Trade Treaty, which aims to regulate the trade of conventional weapons, and to provide the impetus for the effective monitoring and stabilizing the arms flows and trade, in particular, in the conflict-prone regions.

While viewing that the Arms Trade Treaty will enter into force in December 2014, Cambodia in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs will organize a workshop entitled “Regional Legal Assistance Workshop on the Arms Trade Treaty” in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 18 to 19 November 2014. The aim of the workshop is to facilitate expert assistance to states in the Asia-Pacific region that have signed or signaled an intent to sign the Arms Trade Treaty.

**Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)**

We cannot overlook the Small Arms and Light Weapons, which stills claim civilian and military lives, and this poses threat to security of our humanity especially in the warring and the post war conflicting countries. Therefore, Cambodia attached great importance to the UN-led process to fight against illicit use of small arms and light weapons by setting out Arms and Explosive Management Policy and creating a National Committee to implement the policy.

With the significance of the UN-led action plans, Cambodia has been successful in curbing illegal possessing of small arms and anarchic use, and has been pursuing its national policy.

**CONCLUSION**

Finally, I wish to state that while we are challenged by armed conflicts and fear of weaponry proliferation in many parts of the world by illegal means, it is more important than ever that we make our collective efforts to address the issues through further commitments and cooperation from all States.

I thank you, Chair.

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