Mr. Chairman,

Cambodia associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement on this thematic debate on Conventional Weapons. However, I wish to highlight my country’s views on this important issue as follows:

Being suffered from decades of war, Cambodia’s land has been riddled with mines which claimed Cambodian lives and maimed victims, and thus posing obstacles to farming cultivation and development.

From 1979 to 2013 more than 60,000 mine-related accidents were reported, in 1996 there were 4,000 mine and ERW accidents while in 2013 there were only 111 accidents. Cambodia and its development partners and relevant stake holders will continue to support mine risk education programs in the country.

Although the casualty rate has dropped over the years, Cambodia still has nearly 2,000 sq km of land that are highly contaminated by landmines and ERWs. As such, the Government, as state party to the Ottawa convention requested and was granted a ten-year extension to clear all landmines and ERWs all over the country until 2019.

Today, mine clearance, mine risk education, survivor assistance, and related mine action activities are conducted in Cambodia under the authority of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority.

On the international arena, we have shared experiences in mine clearance to the conflicting countries. To contribute to the process in the Middle East and Africa, Cambodia has participated actively in the United Nations Peacekeeping operations. We have dispatched more than 2,000 peacekeepers to Lebanon, Mali and South Sudan. In November of this year, we will deploy another detachment of 216 peacekeepers to Central Africa Republic for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA).

Our tasks are mainly contributing to the Mines clearance of the mines-riddled zones left over after the war and conflicts.

ASEAN Regional Mines Action Centre (ARMAC)

On regional fora, ASEAN has been working towards establishing an ASEAN Regional Mines Action Centre (ARMAC) to be based in Cambodia. To enhance our efforts, Cambodia with cooperation from the Government of Japan will organize a regional Seminar on the establishment of the Regional Mines Action Centre on 2-3 November 2014 in Seam Reap with the participation from ASEAN Member States and other relevant national and international institutions.

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.

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 in 2013, 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 Seam 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.

Mr. Chairman

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

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.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman,