



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

327 East 58th Street, New York, NY 10022
TEL: (212) 336-0777 FAX: (212) 759-7672



Please check against delivery

Statement
by
His Excellency Mr. Ry TUY,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

Thematic debate :
Conventional Weapons

At
The First Committee of the 72nd Session of the United Nations
General Assembly

New York, 23 October 2017

Mr. Chairman,

1. I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly. We are fully confident that under your able leadership the Committee would be able to conclude its deliberations successfully.
2. Cambodia associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Representatives of Thailand and Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN and NAM respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

3. From 1967-1975 Cambodia suffered immensely from the civil war; and from 1975 to 1979 there was an unstable situation in the country which enabled the Pol Pot regime to take control and carry out his torture, mass executions and use of forced labor, while on the whole, the people also struggled of famine and starvation. We have experienced the tragic circumstances and the devastation that caused the country to lose everything - human life, peace and stability because of the use of unregulated weapons in our society that was not justifiable. Thousands and thousands of farmers, innocent men, women and children lost their lives while some are maimed for life. Cambodia, then, turned to the United Nations rehabilitation programmes and thus adopted confidence-building measures especially in the field of conventional arms, clearance of land mines, and reintegration of the mine victims. My government highly values to hold on to peace promoting Instruments and Agreements. To effectively prevent, combat, and eradicate smuggling of small arms and light weapons, it is imperative to establish or strengthen sub-regional and regional cooperation, information sharing mechanism, in particular trans-border custom cooperation and networks for sharing information. In this connection Cambodia being an ASEAN member, is strongly committed to adhere to this aspect.
4. Welcoming GA resolution 71/35 regarding Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms was adopted on 5th December 2016, the Member States should bear in mind the gigantic role it could play in creating favourable conditions in the field of disarmament and to make use of the enhanced capabilities of the intelligence surveillance, monitoring and reporting of smuggling of arms and explosive materials. Cambodia appreciates the role of the UN to keep the database updated and to help Member States in organizing Seminars, courses and workshops so as to enhance the knowledge of new developments in this field.
5. Cambodia remains actively and constructively engaged on all fronts to ensure that the issues of illicit trade in conventional arms and their diversions are adequately addressed to and appropriately dealt with. In addition to our efforts, a Regional Seminar for ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste on illicit trafficking and diversion

of Small Arms and Light Weapons and other conventional arms and ammunition will be hosted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 19 to 20 December 2017.

6. We are aware that the flow of illicit arms constitute a key factor in prolonging conflict and fueling regional instability and hinder the peacekeeping and peace-building process which leads to organized crime and terrorism in all its aspects. This needs to be addressed to by all Member States. They should also establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating or improving the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms. Illicit trade in conventional arms and their diversion should be prevented for the sake of national and regional peace, stability and security. This would be the best and the only possible way to reduce human suffering.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Over the past 2 decades, mine clearance remains one of the top most priorities for Cambodia. In collaboration and support from the international community and donors, most of the country's agricultural lands are now mine-free, however there still remain certain rural areas to be cleared in Cambodia. The Government has included Goal 18 to its SDG, which is demining. Given Cambodia's experiences in mine clearance, last year, ASEAN Member States established an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) in the capital city, Phnom Penh with the objective of intensifying our regional efforts and as well as to join the UN umbrella in assisting UN Member States in mine clearance. My message here is "**Stop mine production to save lives**".
8. In concluding, I would like to reiterate that Cambodia has always cooperated with the United Nations in the fight against illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and the usage of anti-personnel mines. The key to advancing the cause of both disarmament and development lies in fostering a sense of global unity. Unless global unity is attained true peace and security will remain out of reach.
