KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

MR. PICHPHANOAN HUOT

FIRST SECRETARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

First Committee
Thematic Debate “Conventional Weapons”

New York, 24 October 2018
Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Cambodia aligns itself with the statements delivered respectively on behalf of NAM and ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

The presence of land mines and explosive remnants of war is still posing threats to human security and national development agenda. Cambodia, one of the most landmine-polluted countries, is still suffering from unexploded ordnance (UXO) and Explosive Remnants of War hidden underground either at the farming fields or borders. Even though, the number of victims is decreasing in the past decades, there is still much more unclear land and many suffered people, which is a heavy burden to our economy and society.

In May this year, Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) held the National Mine Action Conference to celebrate the accomplishment on mine action for the past 25 years and to prepare future mine-clearing plan. As of December 2017, 1.700 km² of effected land has been cleared, which resulted in 1.25 million mines and 2.7 million explosive remnants of war was destroyed. Despite our hard effort, there is still 2000 km² of effected land in need to be cleared.

Regionally recognizing the need to address mines issues, Cambodia along with other ASEAN member states decided to establish the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) which is located in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It serves as a Regional Centre of Excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of unexploded ordinance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in interested ASEAN Member States and facilitates cooperation with other countries as well as relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Mr. Chairman

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

SALWs ceaselessly devastate thousands human lives every day instead of protecting human livelihood in the world. The armed conflicts inflict millions of human being to become injured, disabled, widows, orphans, refugees, hungry and homeless. Cambodia shares the concern over the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons as well as their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions.

Recognizing the severity of SALW problem in the region as well as our own country, Cambodia has integrated the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in our national agenda in order to manage small arms and light weapons and to ensure peace and security in the country. We strongly believe that the Programme of Action will effectively prevent, combat the illicit trade in SALW and all Member States shall abide by and properly implement it.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.