

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Nation Religion King



National Authority of Chemical Weapons

General Secretariat

N°SG/NACW

STATEMENT BY

H.E. GENERAL (DR.) PHORN NARA

**SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR THE
PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL NUCLEAR BIOLOGICAL AND
RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES TO
TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all, I would like to thank you for inviting Cambodia to participate in the First Meeting of the State Parties to Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons held here in Vienna. I wish to join other colleagues to wholeheartedly congratulate you, **Mr. Alexander Kmentt**, on your assumption of the Presidency of the First Meeting of the State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
2. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the whole world is not yet free from this pandemic. At the same time, the world appears to face more new threats, which increasing number of actors are involved in violence, including crimes, terrorist attacks, and other armed elements, especially the fearful threats by the present nuclear weapons, posing unpredictable consequences to humankind. Due to the development of geopolitical and geostrategic situation, certain dimensions of the disarmament scenario may require updating. However, it would be a serious mistake to begin to take the current system apart or to allow it to disintegrate, without having a clear commonly agreed road map of a future security system. While we are gathering in this important meeting today, I wish to deliver my national statement as follows:

Mr. President,

3. Cambodia welcomed the entry into force of the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** on 22 January 2021. With this initial legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, Cambodia joins effort with the International Community to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the TPNW, leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
4. Cambodia was among 122 States that voted in favour of TPNW adoption during the negotiations in New York in 2017. Confirming the country's commitment to the global nuclear disarmament endeavor, Cambodia signed and ratified the TPNW and was legally bound by this instrument in April 2021.
5. Being a State Party to the TPNW, in accordance with Article 2, Cambodia submitted an **initial declaration** to the United Nations Secretary-General, confirming that Cambodia

does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, and does not host any other states' nuclear weapons on its territory.

Mr. President,

6. Cambodia has signed and ratified many international legal instruments in full support of the prohibition, disarmament and non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), such as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Bangkok Treaty (SEAWFZ), the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and other international instruments.
7. Cambodia is fully committed to global nuclear disarmament. Article 54 of Cambodia's Constitution clearly states that "the manufacturing, use and storage of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons are absolutely prohibited." Cambodia adopted and promulgated the **Law on the Prohibition of Chemical, Nuclear, Biological and Radiological Weapons.**

Mr. President,

8. I regard this First Meeting of the State Parties to Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a very important platform and historical event for reviewing the TPNW, exchanging dialogues, expressing issues of shared concern, and finding the consensual resolutions to the implementation of the TPNW. In response to the humanitarian impacts and consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, we call on all States to comply with applicable international laws as well as to reaffirm the commitments of all States to ensuring the world's peace and security.
9. With regard to the ongoing threat of nuclear weapons to the world's peace and security, we are deeply concerned as many countries have yet to sign nor ratify the TPNW. As long as all States do not join hand in hand with the TPNW, the world is still in danger. In this regard, Cambodia calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to join this important Treaty "at the earliest possible date". Cambodia also welcomes both State and Non-State Parties to the TPNW to create a secure and conducive environment for achieving the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons. We urge that all state parties not have any military confrontations but increase mutual understanding and confidence, and we must double our efforts to promote bilateral and multilateral diplomatic dialogues and negotiations, complying with UN Charter and all related international laws.
10. In conclusion, **Mr. President**, I would like to reiterate that peace is the prior source of sustainable development, freedom, and stability for our world. In this regard, Cambodia urges that all nations in the world collaborate, cooperate and join hands to achieve our goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Our world will continue to be free, stable, peaceful and prosperous, and people will live without fear.

Thank You!