



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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Draft Statement by

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of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations**

At the General Debate of the First Committee

Disarmament and International Security

Eightieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Conference Room 4
New York, 08 October 2025

**Thank you, Mr. Chair,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

1. **First**, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to you, **Mr. Chair**, on your election to preside over the General Debate of the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security. We are confident that, under your able leadership, the Committee's work will be fruitful. I also express my sincere appreciation to the outgoing Chair and Bureau Members for their commendable service during the 79th Session.
2. Cambodia **aligns itself** with the statements delivered by Malaysia on behalf of **ASEAN** and by Uganda on behalf of the **Non-Aligned Movement**. Now, allow me to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

3. As we all recognize, our world today faces a critical juncture. Increasing geopolitical rivalries, rapid technological progress, the weakening of arms control agreements, and the upgrading of nuclear arsenals **threaten global security**. The expanding militarization of outer space and cyberspace **further amplifies** these dangers, jeopardizing international stability and the fundamental principles of peace and humanity.

On Nuclear Disarmament and Weapons of Mass Destruction

4. **Cambodia fully supports the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**, which remains the foundation of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We **call on all States Parties** to uphold the Treaty's three mutually reinforcing pillars and to promote

constructive dialogue leading up to the 2026 Review Conference. We hope this process **will build trust and lead to tangible progress**, including through the renewal of the New START Treaty.

5. In the meantime, Cambodia **acknowledges the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**, which represents a significant milestone in the long-standing global aspiration for a world free of nuclear weapons. In this spirit, **Cambodia joins the call upon all States to sign and ratify this Treaty (TPNW)** and, particularly, those listed in Annex 2, to **ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** without delay.
6. **The painful lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain** an enduring reminder of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. They remind us that disarmament is not merely a political objective but a moral imperative for the survival of humankind.
7. **Therefore, Cambodia's position is clear:** the development, possession, and use of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons **are prohibited under Article 54 of our Constitution**. At the regional level, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the **South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ)**, and we call on Nuclear-Weapon States to sign its Protocol and respect Southeast Asia's aspiration to remain free from such weapons.

On Conventional Weapons and Mine Action

8. Cambodia's tragic history with landmines and explosive remnants of war **has shaped our strong advocacy for humanitarian disarmament**. Through continuous national efforts and international cooperation, we have

successfully lowered annual mine casualties from **over 4,000 in the 1990s to fewer than 100 today**, and cleared more than **3.4 billion square meters** of contaminated land for the safety and livelihood of our people.

9. Cambodia **remains fully committed to the Ottawa Treaty** and **continues** to play an active role in promoting South–South cooperation in mine action. To date, **more than 700 international deminers and mine-action managers** from Asia, Africa, and Latin America **have been trained in Cambodia**, demonstrating our commitment to solidarity and knowledge-sharing among affected countries.
10. We **were deeply honored to host the Fifth Review Conference** of the Mine Ban Treaty in Siem Reap last year, which concluded with the adoption **of the *Siem Reap Declaration***. This Declaration **reaffirmed the collective resolve of States Parties** to accelerate mine clearance, strengthen victim assistance, and ensure that no one is left behind in our shared journey toward a mine-free world.
11. We also emphasize the urgent need for international cooperation to stop the illegal trade in **small arms and light weapons (SALW)**, which drives conflicts and instability around the world. Cambodia **advocates for the full implementation of the UN Program of Action (PoA)** and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

On Cybersecurity, AI, and Emerging Technologies

12. Cambodia **recognizes the transformative potential** of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in promoting sustainable development, dialogue, and cooperation. However, their misuse through cyberattacks

and disinformation **poses real challenges to international peace and security.** We welcome the consensus adoption of the **Final Report of the Open-Ended Working Group (2021–2025)** and the establishment of a Global Mechanism on ICT Security. Cambodia stands ready to contribute constructively to this critical process.

13. The rise of Autonomous Weapon Systems (AWS) and Artificial Intelligence in warfare **raises complex ethical and legal issues.** Cambodia stresses that deploying such technologies must fully adhere to the principles of the UN Charter, international humanitarian law, and human rights law.
14. **In conclusion,** Cambodia **strongly believes that** disarmament and arms control **are not just ends in themselves.** More importantly, disarmament isn't only about eradicating weapons – it's about building trust, reducing inequality, and creating the conditions for lasting peace and prosperity. We believe that a world free of weapons of mass destruction **is also a world better equipped to create** a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous future for both current and future generations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.