

Presentation by Cambodia on the
United Nations Regional Workshop
On Transparency in Conventional Arms Transfers
For Southeast Asia
Bali, Indonesia
31 March – 01 April 2010

Mrs. Chair,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, I sincerely thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving us the chance to express our view in the United Nations Workshop on Transparency in Conventional Arms Transfers for Southeast Asia.


In general view, we see that topics of each session are based on the Program of Action of the United Nations on Small Arms and light Weapons and constitute key for raising opinions for discussion on Transparency in Conventional Arms Transfers for Southeast Asia, which is the title of this seminar.

I would also like to emphasize that the Kingdom of Cambodia has adopted the UN Program of Action in 2001 and has been acting according to this program.

Having the chance, I would like to talk about the transparency in conventional arms transfers which I see it as crucial important for participants to actively discuss and find solution, if transparency in conventional arms transfers is irresponsible, and un-complied with international norm and national regulations

Cambodia, in efforts to prevent such irresponsible activity, has played a leading role as it has organized various seminars on Small Arms and Light Weapons in relation to UN Program of Action and has enacted the Law on Weapons, Explosives and Ammunition Management.

The transparency in conventional arms transfers is one of pivotal mechanisms in the Law. Presently, Cambodia is able to tighten the control, governing the equipping, possession, carrying, utilization, purchase, sale, trading, loan, transfer, hiring,



production, fabrication, repair, transportation, transit, importation, and stockpiling of weapons, explosives and ammunition of any and all types.

As result of implementation of the Law and environmental norm, hundred thousand of weapons of all types have been collected and publicly destroyed.

Following the end of the cold war, Cambodia was one of the first conflict-affected countries with a small arms legacy that the international community engaged in a concerted effort. Experiences from Cambodia provide important lessons for other post-conflict countries on what has worked well, and where greater effort is needed.

As recommendations, in order to settle the issue of transparency in conventional arms transfers, we ought to review the UN Program of Action including a number of points stated below:

- Traffickers hate rules of law, including good governance coupled with transparency, but law enforcers do adhere to the rules of law, therefore, timely exchange of information with regards to targets of small arms traffickers through law enforcer local focal points must be established.
 - States, where weapons are manufactured, ought to provide report concerning quantity of weapons sold and weapon identification (type, brand, numeric number, country and year of manufacture as well as the purchasing country. This transparent information provision by the arms manufacturers would greatly contribute to the law operational enforcement to successfully seek information on the identity and information of the arm origin.
 - Weapons which have been using and stocking ought to be marking e. g. Cambodia-Kh, in order to ease the efforts of tracing the illicit trafficking of weapons. This act of transparency would assist the law enforcers to quickly identify the sources of origin and the purpose of arms arriving at the destination.
-