

Statement by Melissa Sabatier, UNDP Mine Action Adviser

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11th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

On behalf of UNDP, a partner to the Royal Government of Cambodia in mainstreaming Aid Effectiveness in the management of mine action, we are very pleased that the Government of Austria joins today the Partnership Principles initiative which the Governments of Australia, Canada, Norway, Ireland, Germany, the UK and the UN adhered to last April.

As we heard many times this week, landmines and ERW still pose a serious threat to civilians and hamper the socio-economic development of Cambodia. These partnership principles strengthen the cooperation between Cambodia and development partners to assist Cambodia with the implementation of its National Mine Action Strategy and to reach the goals set by the AP Mine Ban Treaty and the 9th Millennium Development Goal on Mine & ERW Clearance and victim assistance.

We also welcome the Austrian contribution to the mine action sector in Cambodia, which clearly demonstrate the success of this meeting in reminding us all that more needs to be done to address the landmine threat in Cambodia and other countries. In Cambodia, this pledge will assist the Royal Government of Cambodia in meeting its important objectives of clearing more affected land

for productive use by the poor and to facilitate the rehabilitation of landmine survivors.

We welcome Austria to the community of development partners working for mine action in Cambodia and look forward a fruitful cooperation in the years to come.