



MESSAGE
of
His Majesty NORODOM SIHAMONI
KING of CAMBODIA

on the occasion of the First Review Conference
of the 1997 Convention on Landmines

October 16, 2004

I would like to send warm greetings to all the participants in the Nairobi Summit, an important gathering of governments, experts and NGOs committed to the struggle against the terrible scourge of landmines.

My country Cambodia and her people have suffered much because of landmines. Even today, great parts of our territory are covered by landmines thus reminding us of bitter past conflicts and, at the same time, threatening the future of the younger generations, which often are those most affected by these killing machines.

It is important that actions against land mines be accompanied of commitment, dedication and patience. Without these three elements it would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve the complete eradication of this cruel form of warfare from our world. In Cambodia, since the end of the war, bomb disposal Experts from friendly Countries as well as our compatriots in charge of the daily mine clearance of the Cambodian soil, have made very noble efforts and sacrifices for this gigantic work.

The Nairobi Summit should give the opportunity to concerned governments, experts and NGOs to assess what has been achieved since the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction (The Ottawa Convention).

I sincerely wish you well in your extremely important deliberations and proceedings and look forward to learning the outcome of the Nairobi Summit and its ramifications for all the countries affected by the use of landmines.

Norodom Sihamoni
