



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement
of**

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of the Kingdom of Cambodia

at the General Debate of the
60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York
September 23, 2005

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I wish to join other distinguished delegates in congratulating you on your unanimous election as the President of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly. I am confident that under your able guidance, the General Assembly will respond wisely and effectively to the needs and expectations of the international community. I would like to assure you, Mr. President, of Cambodia's full support and cooperation as you carry out the duties and tasks of your high office.
2. While commending the efforts and contributions of H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, as President of the 59th Session of the General Assembly, I wish also to express my appreciation to His Excellency Kofi Annan, for his political vision and his firm commitment in the efforts to strengthen and revitalize the role of the United Nations in securing international peace, strengthening international security as well as in forging international cooperation.

Mr. President,

3. In these times of uncertainties and difficulties, where the world seems to be inundated with conflicts and tribulations, the Summit of the United Nations General Assembly and the Outcome Document reaffirmed our commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and provided us with a new hope in achieving our noble goals to strengthen peace and stability in the world, a condition sine qua non for the development and the prosperity for all human kind. Admittedly, the Outcome Document didn't respond to all of our concerns but it gave us a frame work for our future action. It is important for us to keep hope alive and our commitment to global peace and take the necessary steps to ensure this noble goal will one day be achieved.
4. As a country which has just emerged from many years of wars and internal conflicts, Cambodia understands the paramount importance of peace. Cambodia is firmly convinced that more weapons would not bring more security to the world. Disarmament, like any other matters in our agenda today, can not be dealt with in isolation. There is an urgent need for this matter to be dealt with at national, regional and international levels. We are of the view that the promotion of confidence building measures is necessary for this endeavor. Experiences gained by the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) - eleven years in its existence - have confirmed about the rightfulness of this approach.

5. This explains our rationale when the Kingdom of Cambodia ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention in July 19, 2005. Cambodia is a proponent of the reinforcement of international law, which inter alia incorporates the major instruments to curb arm race like the Non Proliferation and The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaties. It is with dismay and deep concern to witness that the recent NPT Review Conference ended without any results and we regret the failure to reach consensus on this very crucial issues in the Outcome Document of the High Level Plenary Meeting. Cambodia profoundly believes in the necessity and benefit of disarmament. We believe that people need food, not weapons.

Mr. President,

6. Yet, after September 11, 2001, security perception has changed drastically. Nobody and no country is safe from terrorism which has caused untold suffering and death among innocent people, which knows no distinction between the rich or the poor, the powerful or the powerless, between a superpower and a little speck in the ocean as shown in many parts of the world. When death strikes, we are all the same. The security of our people can not be assured and ensured through weaponry and sophisticated technology alone.
7. Another threat created by the force of nature, the Katrina Hurricane, which devastated the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and even Florida, reinforced us in this conviction. Human brain is a decisive factor and is the essence behind our efforts to counter security threat and threats of any nature. Therefore, it is more important than ever that our strategies must be preventive, comprehensive, inclusive and global in nature. I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the people and the Royal Government of Cambodia my profound condolences to the family of the victims who have lost their lives as well as deepest sympathy for the survivors of this tragic incident.
8. During the Summit, our Leaders have endorsed the Secretary General's identification of elements of a counter terrorism strategy against terrorism. Such a strategy would contribute to our concerted efforts to fight terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, which would be undertaken in conformity with full respect of human rights and fundamental freedom. I hope that our joint efforts would lead to an agreement on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

9. As part of the Government's policy to take an active role in the International efforts to combat terrorism, in particular through fulfilling its obligations spelled out by the Counter Terrorism Committee of the United Nations, Cambodia has implemented some necessary measures recently. Among others, we are in process to finalize our national law of anti terrorism. As we have learned through our experience over the years, the causes of terrorism do not occur instantaneously. Only through continuous and consistent efforts to promote tolerance, social development, economic growth and democracy, to build up a global coalition involving all civilizations, all religions, all cultures and all political systems, we could fight injustice, poverty and other roots of these malicious and often lethal acts. These long term measures are of significance in our mission to prevent acts of violence and extreme aggression effectively.

Mr. President,

10. Sixty years ago, the United Nations was established to spare future generations from the scourge of war. However, the foundation of peace lies in the success of our respective governments, their peoples and the world community at large to forge their future and the future of their children through better health and education, better economic and professional opportunities in a safe and secure social environment that abides with the rule of law and the culture of merit and honesty. It goes without saying that development is the cement for peace. Development in one part of the world could not be sustained without development in another part of it. Cambodia believes in national ownership in devising strategies to develop itself. We also believe in the crucial importance and necessity for international partnership. We equally believe in the importance of good governance at national, international, and corporate levels. How could we otherwise explain our mutual dependency? Transparency and mutual accountability are the best guarantee for a successful partnership.
11. Cambodia has expressed its full commitment to the Millennium Declaration. In 2003, Cambodia localized the global MDGs and these are called Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs). The CMDGs, which reflect the realities of Cambodia, are based on a strong national consensus. Specific indicators have been adopted for each CMDG, including the benchmark and the short, medium and long-term values to be achieved during 2005, 2010, and 2015. In all, the CMDGs cover 9 areas of long-term and short-term goals, 25 overall targets, and 106 specific targets covering (i) extreme poverty and hunger; (ii) universal nine-year basic education; (iii) gender equality and women's empowerment; (iv) child mortality; (v)

maternal health; (vi) HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; (vii) environmental sustainability; (viii) global partnership for development; and (ix) de-mining, UXO and victim assistance.

12. At present, Cambodia is in the process of preparing the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2006-2010 by combining the earlier Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) and National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) and integrating them into the CMDGs. The resulting CMDGs-based NSDP will be rooted in the “Rectangular Strategy” for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency, which provides the Political Platform of the Royal Government in the Third Legislature (2004-2008) of Cambodia’s National Assembly.
13. Our progress toward the MDGs is constrained by a number of impediments, one of which is the chronic shortage of investment funds to meet our priority requirements. This resource gap needs to be resolved through increased flow of external finance. This is necessary since the current concessions given to the Least Developed Countries such as Cambodia by the international community provide only limited benefit to us and need to be supplemented by increased inflows of development finance. If we are to achieve the MDGs, greater financial inflows through aid, reduced debt servicing and increased current account inflows are critical to bridge the resource gaps and foster the required growth.
14. It is in this connection that we would like to reiterate our call for the implementation of the Brussels Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries. We welcome the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by no later than 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent by 2009 and urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts and invite them to establish timetables in order to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent; we also urge those developed countries to achieve the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for ODA to least developed countries.

Mr. President,

15. The Royal Government of Cambodia welcomes the resumption of the Six Parties talks on the Korean Peninsula. Equally crucial is the continuation of the inter-Korean dialogue. It is our belief that open channels of communication are essential in building a strong foundation on which attempts are taken to pursuit peace and stability in the Korean peninsula.

16. We also welcome the recent positive developments in the Middle East and continue to encourage for the implementation of the Roadmap and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. After all the years of wars and conflicts, we reiterate our call for both sides to continue taking steps toward peace, no matter how small they might seem at a time, in order to give the opportunities for children of Palestine and Israel to live in harmony.
17. The dire situation in Africa deserves our outmost concern and action. Too many African children and people have suffered too long from too many conflicts. At the end of the day, the world community through the United Nations and the Group of Eight Leading Industrial Countries, should strive for more efficient efforts and rapid actions to tackle the severe plights suffered by numerous innocent people in Sub Saharan Africa.

Mr. President,

18. It is important for us to never lose hope, because, as the history has shown us, hope is what carries us through difficult times and dreadful challenges. Because of hope, we lend our hands to others. Because of hope, we let ourselves be assisted by others. Although we are indeed facing an uphill battle in our attempts to overcome the challenges of peace, security and development, together, our noble goals to provide a better future for our children and grand children will be achieved. Let us have faith in our common house, the United Nations.

Thank You.