



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Please check against delivery

**Statement
of**

**H.E. Mr. Ouch Borith
Secretary of State
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
of the Kingdom of Cambodia**

**at the General Debate of the
63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York
September 29, 2008**

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. At the outset, I wish to warmly congratulate Excellency Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann of the Republic of Nicaragua on your election as President of the Sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly. I can assure you of our fullest cooperation throughout your tenure. I have no doubt that under your able leadership we will be successful during this session.
2. I also wish to extend my high appreciation to H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the President of the 62nd Session, for his relentless efforts in guiding us to the many outstanding achievements during the past year.

Mr. President,

3. At present, we have a number of global issues and challenges which we need to address both collectively and individually in order to ensure a better world for all of us.
4. Undoubtedly, peace and security remain the center of our preoccupation that obliges us to take responsibility first and foremost. Terrorism is a stumbling block to the advancement and prosperity of our societies and the world at large. We need to recommit ourselves and strengthen our practical measures, including putting in place a good strategy to combat terrorism at national, regional and international levels. We must enhance at all levels the relevant existing instruments on counter-terrorism, in particular the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2006.
5. For Cambodia, the Royal Government has devoted its time, energy, efforts and resources to join the international community to combat terrorism in accordance with

the United Nations conventions and protocols and agreements on security cooperation with ASEAN Member States, including its partners in the region. To live up to our strong commitment, the Law on Counter Terrorism was promulgated by His Majesty the King of Cambodia in July 2007, and our national mechanism in this area has been constantly strengthened.

6. Furthermore, our world is still marred by the spread of small arms and light weapons which continue to have implications on our comprehensive security and livelihoods. We need to address this issue with seriousness and prompt actions. As a country which was ravaged by war and conflict for more than two decades, Cambodia experienced the suffering of the use of small arms and light weapons and other weapons of war. In this regard, we attach great importance to the agreed international instruments, especially the implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Over the years, Cambodia has taken practical measures to strictly control the use and circulation of arms and ammunitions, as well as to eliminate the illegal procurement and sales of arms.
7. On the landmines and UXO issues, we are of the view that landmines are not only a security problem but also a humanitarian one, as the innocent victims become permanently traumatized and physically handicapped, while their families suffer untold misery of spiritual and material deprivation.
8. Landmines and UXOs issues have been integrated in our national agenda, such as in the “Cambodia Millennium Development Goals” (CMDGs), National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), and the “Rectangular Strategy” of the Royal Government of Cambodia in order to cope with this challenging issue. Cambodia highly appreciates the valuable contributions of both development partners and donors in terms of financial and material support over the years.

9. With our de-mining experiences and as part of our contribution to international peace, security and development, Cambodia has dispatched its third group of 135 De-miners of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces to Sudan, for mine clearance action under the umbrella of the UN Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. President,

10. We are now confronted, more than ever, with the increasing natural disasters—from floods to droughts, from tsunamis to storms and global warming, just to name a few which are caused mostly by climate change.

11. Nowadays, the industrialized countries consume 75% of the world's energy and produce 80% of the greenhouse gas emission, while the developing countries which produce little of such gas and their economy relies essentially on agriculture, are the main victims of the increasing global warming and continuing climate change. According to a report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, if the temperature increases by 2 degrees Celsius, up to 30% of plant and animal species worldwide would be at risk of extinction. However, according to another study by the Climate Change Policy Unit of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), it would only need 0.1% of global GDP to save the world's climate and, therefore, our own human survival.

12. Fully aware of the danger and consequences of the climate change and global warming on the well-being, the livelihood, and development of the people around the world, Cambodia led a vast campaign of reforestation all over the country where 14,300 hectares were already planted between 2003 and 2006. The rationalization and the ban of wood-cutting have been implemented. As a party to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) and its **Kyoto Protocol**, Cambodia has made its utmost efforts to implement the Convention and the Protocol,

promote the **Clean Development Mechanism** (CDM) projects, as well as to prepare a **National Adaptation Program of Action on Climate Change** (NAPA). Cambodia also strongly supports the **Bali Action Plan for Reduction of the Greenhouse Gas** as well as the **Japanese Initiative on “Cool Earth”**.

13. We are also of the view that to help reverse climate change, we would also need to preserve nature's biodiversity as much as possible and to put an end to the ongoing deforestation in the world, especially in the least developed countries, by assisting the people to find sources of income other than deforestation. It is also important for us to actively promote world's public awareness of this issue by mobilizing public participation on the absolute necessity to work together to struggle against global warming and climate change. We should forge a **“shared awareness”** of climate change caused by industrialization which is the other side of the coin in the developed world. We need to mobilize the support of all countries, especially the industrialized developed nations, to respect and implement the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

14. I would like to take this opportunity to call on the United Nations to organize a World Summit on Climate Change so that this issue remains on the top agenda of the world leaders and to ensure that concrete and timely measures and actions could be undertaken to help reverse the current trend of global warming and climate change.

Mr. President,

15. On the Korean Peninsula issue, we are confident that DPRK and the US as well as other parties involved will keep up the momentum in fulfilling the implementation of the 2005 Joint Statement, in good faith, for the sake of peace, stability and security in the region and the world at large.

16. Concerning the Middle East, the peace process has been engaging our agenda for long enough and we are hopeful that all parties to the conflict will have the will and the wisdom to end the conflict as early as possible for the interests of all countries concerned. In this regard, Cambodia welcomes the June 2008 Quartet Statement and the on-going negotiations between Israel and Palestine to bring about peace. Israel and Palestine must seize this opportunity to exercise all their possibilities working towards an acceptable agreement between both sides.

Mr. President,

17. With regard to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight years have gone by since the adoption of the MDGs. We all know that the pace of achieving the progress of the MDGs is very slow, risking the possibility of missing the target of the MDGs by 2015. The outcomes of the High-Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals have clearly underlined the importance for the need to continue implementing the MDGs with greater effectiveness by enhancing closer cooperation between the developed and developing countries. In this regard, there is a need to ensure the greater flows of financing for development through foreign direct investment, Official Development Assistance, and more trade. At the same time, the developed countries should make greater efforts to transfer innovative and relevant technology to the developing countries.

18. For its part, Cambodia is firmly dedicated to achieving the MDGs. Various strategies for sustainable development and poverty alleviation are at its primary stage. The eight United Nations Goals have been incorporated in the framework of our National Strategic Development Plan, the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs), and the “Rectangular Strategy.” Over the years, with those development blueprints, Cambodia has experienced a double-digit economic growth of 11.1 percent

in average from 2004 through 2007, and the poverty rate has dropped from 35 percent to 31 percent.

19. In addition, Cambodia is fully committed to implement the principle of good governance and maintain macroeconomic stability and fiscal discipline. The policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia is to conserve its domestic resources in order to finance the needs of national development. However, domestic resources are not enough to finance investment needs for maintaining economic growth rate at an acceptable level and as a response to key socio-economic targets, including the MDGs. Therefore, Cambodia continues to need financial cooperation from its development partners in order to support the ongoing national development and poverty reduction.

Mr. President,

20. For years, we all agreed that the United Nations needs reform. Despite little progress and concerted efforts, differences of views remain on how to make the United Nations more effective and more relevant in dealing with numerous challenges we confront today in the world. Cambodia is of the view that the UN reform must be comprehensive and realistic. In order to move forward, we should continue to build greater consensus and uphold the common interests of all, without discrimination.

21. For almost 15 years now, Member States have intensely deliberated the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform. Cambodia consistently reiterates its position of supporting the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent members of the UNSC. However, we have not yet achieved any acceptable modalities and clear framework on the reform.

Therefore, the reform of the UNSC has so far been a deadlock. Although we have agreed that the status quo is not acceptable, we must not lose the momentum. In addition, we need to redouble our collective efforts to ensure that we can make a breakthrough in the current impasse of the UNSC reform.

Thank you for your kind attention.