

Mr. Chairman,

1. Let me begin by extending our deep gratitude to the Secretary General, His Excellency Kofi Annan, for his extensive and detailed report on the “Implementation of the Program of Action for the Least Development Countries for the Decade 2001 – 2010.” Our high appreciation is also extended to the Under Secretary General Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for their essential roles in the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and in the effective implementation of the Brussels Program of Action.
2. Cambodia would like to align its statement with the statement delivered earlier by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Benin on behalf of the Least Developed Countries.
3. As a nation, which has hard won peace and regained stability only with painful and patient efforts stretching over nearly three decades, Cambodia understands clearly the necessity to continue the endeavors to create and maintain a sustainable environment that is conducive for growth and development and this effort begins with the country’s people-centered policy framework. Cambodia was relegated to the category of a LDC precisely because of the long sufferings and unique destruction brought by war, conflict and genocide.
4. In its present third legislative mandate, the Royal Government of Cambodia has formulated a Rectangular Strategy with good governance at its core, aiming at achieving economic growth combined and institutions building that would foster social equity and justice. The Government is in the process of preparing the “National Strategic Development Plan” for 2006-2010, which will continue to be used as guidelines for the efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals in 2015.

5. The concept of achieving economic growth through social equity and justice has been translated into a national strategy to bring economic growth through the substantive reduction of poverty. Through the dividends of peace and political stability, Cambodia has been able to reduce poverty by 8 % within a decade from 47 % in 1993-1994 to 35 % in 2004, this according to the recent World Bank Report.
6. Cambodia could also withstand another major challenge, when it decided to reintegrate into the international economic community through the accession to the World Trade Organization in September of last year as the second LDC after Nepal. Not only could it withstand the abolition of quota for its nascent textile industry, but this sector continued to flourish vigorously throughout this year, which combined with a thriving growth in tourism and construction sectors, has brought this year's GDP growth to 6.1 % against the earlier gloomy prediction of 2 % at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Cambodia is now in the process of making steps to diversify its economy to embrace other light industrial as well as agro business activities. Thus doing, it faces the same constraints as any other LDCs, namely tariff and, in particular, non-tariff barriers. The issue of market access into the developed countries remains a high priority for the Royal Government, in particular for its agricultural products, taking into account that 80 % of the population lives in the country side and derive their living from agricultural production and agriculture related activities.
8. In this spirit, Cambodia genuinely believes in the wisdom laid out in the Seven Commitments included in the Brussels Program of Action for the LDCs, which have focused on their sustainable development and integration into the global economy fabrics. We have to stress that despite measures and efforts made by LDCs themselves, we continue to face economic difficulties as we

continue to be marginalized from the benefits of globalization. Therefore, Cambodia would like to join other developing countries in urging the developed countries to remain firm in their commitment to fulfill the Commitments of the Brussels Program of Action for the LDCs.

9. The Brussels Program of Action could be applied only by forging a broad multilateral institutional alliance at the national, regional and global levels, in which participation of bilateral and multilateral institutions and the public and private sectors are ensured. As shown by the achievements throughout the years, the system of the United Nations and its organizations possesses the necessary structure for the successful implementation of the BPA. In this connection, Cambodia expects the High Level Mid Term Review which will be conducted in New York in September next year will bring new energy to this vast enterprise, upon which the well-being of the entire international community is dependent.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Cambodia welcomes the initiative of the United States and the thoughts of the European Union to reduce their huge agricultural subsidies in a bolder manner. This is indeed an encouraging sign. It must be at the same time clear that even if this comes true, it would be essentially a modest step, which needs further substantial adjustments that would bring mutual benefits in a win-win situation. We hope to see real progress at the next ministerial meeting of the WTO in Hong Kong in coming December.
11. It is imperative that cooperation amongst all parties must be strengthened. Cambodia pledges its full support in the endeavor to achieve the noble goal of durable peace and international security through sustainable socio-economic development.

Thank You.