



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

866 UN PLAZA, SUITE 420, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL: (212) 223-0676 FAX: (212) 223-0425

**Statement
of**

**H.E. Dr. Chem Widhya
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations**

at

**the General Debate of the First Committee
60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York
Thursday, October 6, 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

1. First of all, allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate you on your election as Chairman and to congratulate members of this Committee. Let me also avail myself of this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the Under Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Nobuyasu Abe for his important contributions to various disarmament and security issues.
2. I also would like to align our statement with the Statement of Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Cambodia has always been committed to the cause of international peace and security. We strongly believe in multilateralism, e.g., regional and international peace and security should be ensured through a multilateral architecture.
4. It is indeed discouraging to see that there has been no significant progress been made towards the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. In this connection, although we were dealt a set back by the omission of the section on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation from the Outcome Document of the High Level Plenary Meeting recently, Cambodia believes that the Members of the Organization must continue the efforts to analyze the various disarmament issues in the light of the current international situation.
5. For that purpose, we look at this august organization and this committee to continue to provide the necessary forum where member states can contribute to the creation of the much needed international atmosphere through which it approaches the challenges facing the subject of complete disarmament. It has been proven in the past that strengthened multilateralism will enhance the role of the United Nations in global affairs. As such, all of us should work together in the spirit of multilateralism to strengthen global norms in order to collectively eliminate threats to peace and stability.
6. There are two important tools for building a peaceful and stable world; disarmament and development. By controlling variables significant to the contribution of possible armed conflicts, resources can be freed and allocated for other activities, such as for economic and social development. Concurrently, sound development policies and strategies will play a significant role in efforts to eradicate poverty, to promote economic growth, and in the long run, to create an environment conducive for long term security.

Mr. Chairman,

7. As we participate in this debate, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Cambodia's unequivocal commitment to the noble goals of general and complete disarmament. This commitment stems from the sufferings and miseries that Cambodians unfortunately had to endure during a long period of twenty four years. 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.
8. 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.

Mr. Chairman,

9. While Cambodia has enjoyed peace and a return to normalcy, people still have to deal with the existence of land mines and unexploded ordnance left over by wars and conflicts. The Royal Government aims to free all of Cambodia from land mines by year 2012. Furthermore, in addition to the 8 Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations, the Government has adopted land mine clearance as an additional Millennium Development Goal for Cambodia.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The growing gap between the rich and the poor is fuelling inequality. A continuation of this quandary will inevitably fuel conflicts further. Because of the ease of use and availability, small arms have become the weapons of choice for today's combatants. As a post conflict country, Cambodia fully understands the importance of the proper and systematic collection, destruction, and registration of small arms and light weapons.

11. The Government has conducted six national projects that concentrate on the efforts mentioned above as well as safe storage as well as efforts to search for hidden stockpiles. Special emphasis has been given to the “Weapon for Development” program in which incentive program is established and offered to communities whose cooperation and report of illegal stockpiles leads to collection and destruction. It includes school related facilities and appropriate agricultural tools. As a result, more than a hundred thousand of small arms have been collected and destroyed. In addition, awareness programs have been conducted nationwide to appeal for the public participation.

12. The Royal Government of Cambodia has also embarked on developing necessary legislations for small arms and explosives control. Specifically on 26 April this year, our National Assembly adopted “Law on the Management of Weapons, Explosives and Ammunition” setting out issues of supply and transportation, repair and production of weapons, explosives, and ammunition, and penalties. Moreover, the UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components, and Ammunition has also been submitted to the Council of Ministers and on to the National Assembly awaiting for ratification.

Mr. Chairman,

13. We realize, as do many others, the necessity to strengthen multilateral efforts to promote disarmament and nonproliferation, as there is an increasing need for multilateralism to become more assertive and proactive to the changing dynamics of international security. Besides, efforts at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels should continue to be pursued in parallel with a multilateral approach. It takes concerted efforts from all of us to ensure that the world becomes a safer place to live for now and the future.

Thank You.