



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement  
of**

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

**at**

**ECOSOC Special Meeting With Bretton Wood Institution**

**New York  
April 24, 2006**

Madame and Mr. Co-Chair,

1. Since the return of peace in 1993, Cambodia has made serious strides in promoting economic growth. Between 1999 and 2005, overall growth averaged 7.3% annually. Based on the latest survey, over the last decade, the level of poverty has been reduced by 10-15 percentage points from 47% in 1994 to 35% in 2004. This means that poverty rate dropped by more than 1% per year as the Government has targeted. Strong economic growth persisted in 2005 through a robust increase in tourism, garment export and construction boom. It reached 7 % despite the earlier predictions that Cambodia would only be able to reach 2 % as a result of its accession into the World Trade Organisation in September 2004 that would see the end of the quota system for its nascent textile industry.
2. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has officially declared its intention to move the country out of the Least Developed Country category by 2020.
3. Poverty reduction is the core objective of its development strategy, which formulated the “Rectangular Strategy” focused on good governance and aiming at economic growth, employment generation, promotion of equity and social justice, and enhancement of efficiency in the public sector. In this spirit, the Royal Government has prepared the “National Strategic Development Plan for 2006-2010” (the Plan), which synthesizes the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs), the National Poverty Reduction Strategy(NPRS) 2003-2005 and the Governance Action Plan including civil administrative reform at the national level.
4. The Plan is aimed at widening the pattern of economic growth to the larger country side as of to create conditions that would allow agricultural sector, where 91 percent of Cambodia’s poor now live, to grow in par with the service and industrial sectors.
5. Analysis of the 2004 survey data clearly shows that small farms are much more productive than large farms, which not only employ more people than large farms, but also generate greater production given the same amount of land. Hence, the RGC has placed special emphasis on small farms by creating policies and programs that help small farmers to produce and market their crops. At the same time, it strives to diversify its nascent light industry to prosper beyond the textile sector and is devoting increased and substantial budget allocation to public investment programmes and projects

to build up the needed infrastructure, such as dams, roads and telecommunication systems.

Madame and Mr. Co-Chair,

6. For the Millennium Development Goals to be successfully achieved, it is imperative that developing countries must be able to continue to rely on a sound partnership with development partners, bilateral and multilateral, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the WTO and UNCTAD, while owning their national development strategies. These strategies are the more important, included in regional integration schemes such as those unfolding in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-ASEAN as they would then return the benefits to the development partners themselves.

Thank You.