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**Statement
of**

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

**Agenda Item 33: Comprehensive review of the whole question of
peacekeeping operations in all of their aspects**

**Fourth Committee
61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York
Wednesday, October 25, 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

1. As this is the first time I am taking the floor, please allow me to join previous speakers in extending our congratulations to you and other members of the Bureau, on your recent election to the bureau of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the 61st Session of the General Assembly.
2. My Delegation would like to thank Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, the Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, for his thorough review of the peacekeeping operations progress in the past year.
3. Cambodia would also like to align itself with the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.
4. The dramatic increase of peacekeeping operations from 47,883 uniformed personnel in 2001 to 2002 to 72,822 in July 2006 that has been translated from a big increase in budget from 2.6 billion in 2002-2003 to 5 billion in 2005-2006 clearly testifies that the primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace over security rests with our world body, the Organization of the United Nations.
5. Such dramatic increase in peacekeeping operations does not come, however, without problems. Timely deployment, with what it entails, synergized coordination and the quality of cooperation given by the concerned parties, in particularly on the ground, will test to the efficiency of the international efforts to bring durable peace and ensure security to different parts of our world. The political will to succeed accompanied by mutual trust are the key.

Mr Chairman,

6. Cambodia belongs to the few countries that have witnessed unparallel destruction over two long decades and yet recovered from its own ashes to retaking ownership of its destiny. As such, we have a rich experience in conflict resolution, national reconciliation and peace-building that led to strong economic growth and macro-economic stability with single digit inflation rate and monetary stability over the last thirteen years.

7. Cambodia used to be a net recipient of international aid assistance. One of the most well-known chapter was the UN success story in this country, when the Paris Peace Agreements enabled the UN to deploy at the time the most ambitious and most costly transitional administration composed of civilian, police and military components that led to the UN organized and monitored General Election in May 1991.
8. 2005 was the year when the Kingdom of Cambodia changed her status from a net recipient into a contributor country for international peace and security under the framework of the United Nations. 135 deminers have been deployed to-date in Sudan. The Royal Government of Cambodia is now in the process of sending its gendarmerie to Timor Leste to help ensure peace and order.

Mr Chairman,

9. The peace-keeping operations in Sudan testify to the need for stronger and better coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations like the African Union. Regional organizations are the ones, which, indeed, best know the specificities of their own regions and their needs. Though still in the long term, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations – ASEAN – is also working towards the establishment of the ASEAN Security Community. An ASEAN Charter is now being crafted by eminent experts. Cambodia as an active Member of ASEAN looks forward to render every cooperation towards the strengthening of our world organization, the United Nations.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.