



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



Please check against delivery

**Statement
of**

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

Agenda Item 56a

**Group of Countries in Special Situation: Third United Nations
Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

Second Committee

61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**New York
Wednesday, November 8, 2006**

Madame Chairperson,

1. At the outset, on behalf of my Delegation, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Secretary General for his extensive reports on the “Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries” and the “Midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.” Indeed, these documents provide us with important lessons that we continue to learn from in our concerted efforts for poverty eradication and sustainable growth and development. Cambodia would like to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as the statement of the Least Developed Countries which was delivered by the Permanent Representative of Benin.
2. Cambodia believes that the collective resolve of both the developing partners and the LDCs continue to be required in order to be able to overcome formidable development challenges. The goals and targets of the Brussels Program of Action have still to be achieved through concrete implementation programmes in the spirit of true partnership and shared responsibility for all parties involved.

Madame Chairperson,

3. Cambodia underlines the importance of continuing peace and stability for sustainable development. However, without growth and progress, peace would not durable. In this context, the Royal Government of Cambodia adopted a National Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2002 and Cambodia Millennium Development Goals in the following year. Last year, the Royal Government adopted the National Strategic Development Plan (2006-2010.) as the single overarching document in guiding the development efforts and strategies towards the reduction of poverty in the next five years.
4. In order to strengthen the country’s economy and enhance its competitiveness in the global market, the Cambodian Government continues to give priority to the development of human and institutional capacities, the removal of procedural and institutional bottlenecks to reduce transaction cost, and the promotion of sub-regional and regional cooperation schemes.

5. In light of our development efforts, Cambodia has achieved macroeconomic stability and economic progress, with economic growth in average of 8.2% per annum from 1994 to 2005. In 2005, the IMF reported that economic growth reached 13.4% due to an increase of 16.6% in agriculture and 12.1% in both industry and service sectors. Poverty level has been brought down from 47% in 1994 to 35% in 2004. The Royal Government of Cambodia has projected that GDP growth will reach 8% in 2006 on its way to meet the CMDG target of reducing poverty to half by 2015.

Madame Chairperson,

6. The Secretary General Reports indicate that some improved economic performance and extreme poverty appear to be decreasing in very few of the Least Developed Countries but increasing in many. It is also a source of profound concern that Least Developed Countries still face insurmountable challenges with 1.3 billion people still living on the margins of life, earning less than US\$1 a day, while another 1.8 billion people are living on less than US\$2 a day.
7. For this reason, all commitments agreed upon at international conferences and summits must be implemented comprehensively and cohesively. This includes market access issues, the removal of substantial agricultural subsidies in developed countries, the sharing of knowledge and technological know how, in particular on how to better protect the natural environment and preserve natural resources while devising development patterns. Subsequently, social and economic progress in poor countries will enhance stability and predictability in the international security structure.
8. While welcoming the decision to give 100% debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative of the IMF, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank from July 2006 to some LDCs in Africa, we continue to call on developed countries, which have not done yet, to honour their commitment to allocate 0.7 percent of their Gross National Product (GNP) for ODA to developing countries by 2015 and 0.15 to 0.20 percent to the Least Developed Countries.
9. A crucial element in the BPA is the commitment of new resources and funds, which are vitally needed to respond to the increasing development needs in all parts of the world. The international community must act together as soon as possible as time is the essence. Reaching to the poor is no longer an act of generosity. It serves the interest of the whole world itself. Development cannot be sustainable, if the inequality gap keeps increasing

with such a rapid pace. Therefore, my Delegation believes in a mutually accountable partnership. Where is a will, there is a way.

Thank You.