



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement
of**

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations**

at

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

**New York
Monday, October 3, 2005**

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, our esteemed Colleague Ambassador Aminu Bashir Wali as well as other members of the Bureau on the recent elections to the Second Committee. Cambodia fully supports the efforts to obtain successful results for the work of the Committee during the 60th Session of the United Nation General Assembly. At the same time, my Delegation would like to express our deep gratitude for the excellent work done by members of the Bureau for the Second Committee during the 59th Session. I also would like to thank Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo for his extensive and informative statement delivered earlier.
2. Cambodia would like to align itself with the previous statement of Jamaica on behalf of the Group 77 and China and the statement of Indonesia which was delivered on behalf of ASEAN.
3. Earlier this month, our Leaders gathered at this august organization to review the progress and development which have taken place since the Millennium Declaration in the year of 2000. The Outcome Document of the High Level Plenary Meeting might not answer some concerns that we have, but it is indeed a platform of next steps that are needed to be taken. It has been reiterated numerous times that, without increased development assistance, many States, particularly the Least Developed Countries, would fail to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This would put at risk the economic security and political stability of entire nations, not just the poor ones.
4. With this in mind, Cambodia calls on developed countries to remain firm in their commitment to increase ODA flows to the Least Developed Countries to the level of 0.15 to 0.2% of their GNP the year of 2006 and take necessary steps to reverse the ODA declining trend. Development should remain at the center of the United Nations Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

5. To aid growth and development, it has become imperative for nations in the world to continue to expand their economies. By boosting economic growth, generating employment, and reducing poverty for developing nations, trade

provides one of the most important external sources for financing development. The Royal Government of Cambodia deeply appreciates the important role of UNCTAD as a coordinating body of the United Nations system in the area of trade and development and as a forum for the consideration of issues related to the liberalization of trade in goods and services, revitalization of financial flows and technology transfer.

6. Cambodia also believes in the importance of maintaining and strengthening the capability of UNCTAD to give assistance in order to increase the effectiveness of external trade of developing nations and countries in transition, improve basic infrastructure and facilitate the integration of these countries into the multilateral trading system. There should be a fair, equitable and non-discriminatory trading system that would address the concerns of developing countries and ensure enhanced and predictable market access for their exports, in particular for the few exportable products that LDCs have, so that they could benefit from trade liberalization. Furthermore, stability in the international financial and monetary systems is necessary to ensure a healthy development of the world economic pattern.
7. It is disheartening to see that, more than ten years after the establishment of North and South partnership, the world is still the witness to the worsening of economic disparities between the North and the South, which has been further aggravated by the disadvantages of globalization. We call on developed countries to take appropriate macroeconomic measures in order to ensure steady economic growth and greater predictability. It is necessary for them to create a favorable international economic environment that would support developing countries' efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and to achieve sustainable economic growth and long term development.

Mr. Chairman,

8. As one of the Least Developed Countries in the world, poverty eradication still presents the most formidable development challenge in Cambodia. It tends to be predominantly rural, associated with landlessness or small farm size. To name a few, development challenges include limited diversification of economic activity, large household size, and limited formal education. As it is necessary to attack poverty from all directions, a critical ingredient of effective poverty reduction will be to diversify the light industry sector, develop tourism industry, increase agricultural production and generate employment with a view to increase basic consumption of food and other necessities. It will also be important for rural smallholders to diversify their

economic activities to better be able to cope with external factors. Development of human resources, chiefly by promoting education and health, and mechanisms for debt relief should also be included as integral parts of any comprehensive concept of poverty eradication.

9. In its present third mandate the Royal Government of Cambodia has implemented the Rectangular Strategy with Good Governance at its core so as to promote strong economic growth, generate employment, achieve equity and social justice, and enhance efficiency of the public sector through the implementation of the Governance Action Plan and in-depth reforms that are coordinated and consistent across all levels and sectors.
10. As part of the Cambodia's National Poverty Reduction Strategy, efforts have been emphasized on fulfilling key objectives such as strengthening peace, stability and social order, ensuring sustainable, high economic growth in the long run, averaging 6% - 7% per annum, ensuring equitable distribution of the gains from economic growth, and promoting sustainable environmental management and use of natural resources.
11. In addition to the eight points included in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the Royal Government of Cambodia has added a ninth point, related to demining, unexploded ordnances and victim assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Since the implementation of the macroeconomic policy framework in 1993, results could be seen in the country's current economy situation. From the period of 1999 to 2003, the economy grew at an annual average rate of 6.7%. Inflation was kept low at less than 2% in the last 12 years. However, high oil prices will lead inflation to a higher rate, though moderate, this year. We also acknowledge the fact that these achievements are not our final goals and, as we are committed to continue all necessary reforms to support economic growth with social equity in Cambodia, we continue to strive to overcome challenges such as diversification of the economy and expansion of growth base, population growth, developing institutions and strengthening governance at central and local levels.
13. Therefore, the key words here are integration and cohesion, not only in the commitments, but also in the efforts and collaboration, from all parties involved.

Mr. Chairman,

14. We are all aware of the fact that many developing countries are facing some of the greatest challenges to their development, particularly in respect of globalization. The effect of this phenomenon has, at best, been uneven. The developed countries, with their possession of technology and resources, have been the principal recipients of the benefits of globalization. While primary responsibility for national development strategies lay with the developing countries themselves, the developed countries need to share the responsibility, since they largely control international finance, technology and trade, and access to the global market.
15. In this connection, we also fully support the Doha Plan of Action, in particular the continuous efforts to further strengthen areas such as education and information and communication technology. The Royal Government of Cambodia also supports the initiative of His Highness the Emir of Qatar in hosting the First Follow Up Conference for Financing for Development in Doha in the year of 2007.
16. Developing and developed countries should also urgently tackle together the issue of the rapid increase in oil price and its negative impact of the world economy. Another issue of major and common concern is the rapid degradation of our environment leading to man made disasters of vast dimensions and with dire consequences. Again, only together could developing and developed countries ensure that our world will remain a safe place for future generations. Let us rapidly reflect on the period after 2012, which rapidly approaches. Our responsibility should be proportionate to our respective means. A strong political will is needed for those, who potentially could contribute most.
17. Time has come for all of us to focus on practical actions, rather than rhetoric, in attempting to solve the problems of growth and development. We call for the Second Committee find ways of improving the daily lives of the world's poorest peoples, by taking innovative decisions. Cambodia stands ready in the contribution to this noble endeavor.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.