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**Statement
of**

**His Excellency Dr. SEA Kosal
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations**

**on Korean Peninsula
4th ASEAN – Canada Dialogue**

**Ottawa, Canada
10-11 May 2007**

Mr. Co-Chairmen,

First of all allow me to join my other ASEAN colleagues in expressing our appreciation to you, Mr. Co-Chairs the Government of Canada for extending the warm hospitality to our ASEAN delegation and for the excellent arrangement of this important and useful meeting of the 4th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue in the beautiful city of Ottawa.

I am very pleased to highlight our discussion on the Korean Peninsula, which is one of the outstanding issues that require attention by the individual country, region and international community as a whole.

As we know it took a fair length of time to address the challenge of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula

Mr. Co-Chairmen,

ASEAN has been following closely the progress of the six party talks, conducted together by Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, China, United States, Japan and Russia. It is noted that the 13th ASEAN Regional Forum has been offered as a venue for the parties to have the opportunity for dialogue which would be a means to move forward to solve this issue.

It is also noted that at the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, on 25 July 2006, ASEAN Foreign Ministers "emphasized the importance of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region and reaffirm the importance of dialogue among all parties for the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue".

After the announcement of DPRK to conduct the nuclear test, Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, on 12 October 2006, issued a Statement, which, I quote "protest such testing, and strongly urged the DPRK to desist from conducting further tests".

"The ASEAN Foreign Ministers call on the DPRK to abide by the provisions of UNSC Resolution 1695, particularly on its return to the Six Party Talks, to work towards the expeditious implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement, and to return at an early date to the Non-Proliferation Treaty".

Mr. Co-chairmen,

Cambodia as well as other Members of ASEAN welcome the recent positive developments, resulting from the Six-Party Talks on February 2007, in which all the parties concerned had agreed on a set of Initial Actions to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and fully realize the 19 September, 2005 Joint Statement resulting from the talks in Beijing.

In this regard, Cambodia urges all parties concerned to firmly stick to the implementation of those commitments under the February 13, 2007 agreement, in order to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Co-Chairmen,

Despite the delay of the implementation, Cambodia believes that the 13 February agreement continues to serve as the cornerstone and effective means to actively and constructively engage all parties concerned in the on-going process. All sides should understand the common interests they are going to share. Flexibility should be a critical factor for the success. And the DPRK, itself, should respond to the imperative of the international community, who wishes to live from the threat of nuclear weapons.

We understand that the stability of the entire region and the future of proliferation could be at risk thus the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula remains high on the agenda for constructive deliberations.

The continuation of diplomatic negotiation remains the high priority and we are supportive of every initiative for further talks to address the causes, which pose as obstacle to the whole process. In my view, the door to success on this issue is faithful cooperation between all relevant parties and we encourage the countries, which have a significant contribution to make its best efforts for peace and stability to do so in the spirit of shared benefits.

Finally, Mr. Co-Chairmen, while further work remains to be done on nuclear disarmament in the Korean Peninsula, we hope that the issue would be tackled successfully soon for the sake of peace, stability and development in Asia Pacific Region.

Thank You