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Statement
by

Mr. Preap Phyna

on

Informal Consultation of the Plenary on Environment
60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York
June 13, 2006

Mr. Co Chair,

1. Let me begin by expressing our deep appreciation to you for the committed leadership that you have demonstrated to us. I would like to thank you for circulating the letter of May 24, 2006, in which several questions were tabled for the possibility of further deliberation. Today, I would like to touch upon the matter of “enhanced coordination” on environmental governance issues.
2. From viewpoint of a developing nation, although there has been constant increase in intergovernmental fora providing environmental policy advice and guidance at international level, more often than not, results of such initiatives do not achieve the intended target. Challenges that are faced by developing countries, namely lack of available resources, minimum level of technological know-how, limited policy coordination capacity, and imbalanced international trade and other economic policies, make full participation and contribution to the efforts of the environment preservation and prevention from further degradation a very difficult task to conduct.
3. These matters are closely intertwined and, to solve these connected challenges, a conscious attempt to think “outside the box” is required. It is in this spirit that the role of UNEP should be strengthened as the central organizing body of the United Nations to enhance the coordination among the various organs of the World Body as well as the key players involved. Rather than creating new entities, extensive studies and further deliberations could be conducted to attain effective and efficient methods of improving the current existing infrastructure, such as the functions and mandate of the Environment Management Group and other organs of the United Nations involved in the issue of environment. Such improvement is designed with the goals to manage better the requirements of the present situation and to anticipate better those of the future.
4. Second, as the issue of environment preservation is central to the successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other long-term development targets, national development goals should be taken into full consideration while designing and implementing regional and global environmental policies. Equal emphasis should also be given to the continuation and improvement of overall assistance of the international community to developing nations in order to achieve the desired impact necessary for sustainable development.

Mr. Co-Chair,

5. At this stage, Cambodia feels that the setting of specific deadline could run into difficulties as environment matters are comprehensive in matters and require thorough consideration. Let us proceed step by step and move from easy targets to more elaborate ones in an incremental approach. My Delegation stays at your disposal and is ready to render full support to your noble endeavors.

Thank You.