



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement  
of

Her Excellency Mrs. Chou Bun Eng  
Director-General in charge of Social Development  
Ministry of Women's Affairs,  
Kingdom of Cambodia

at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status  
of Women

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New York

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

First of all, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I have the honour and pleasure to thank the UN Commission on the Status of Women for supporting Cambodia to be elected as a member of the Commission, and for allowing us to participate in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission.

On behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to support the Statement made by the Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Cambodia is one of the developing countries that had been experiencing the genocidal period for more than a decade. The genocide is still a trauma for some of the Cambodian people who survived during the human rights violation regime.

Both men and women were affected by fears and sufferings at the time of conflicts. But women, even at the stage of development and globalization, are the most vulnerable group because of gender-based violence and inequality.

However, women share partnership with men in all areas of development, in all levels of administration. Unfortunately, women are not the advantage group of enjoying access to all equal rights, equal shares of benefits, opportunities, and values.

During the last three decades, the Cambodian Government has been making success in history in dealing with the complex issues. It is gradually addressing various socio-economic concerns and keeping with its development trend.

The Council for Development of Cambodia indicated that the GDP has shown continuous growth in recent years, with real growth rate of 7.7% in 2001, 6,2% in 2002, 8,6% in 2003, 10% in 2004 and 13.4% in 2005 and keeping with its GDP growth. The Per capita GDP in 2005 was 395 US dollars. It has shown a marginal increase of 11% when compared with the 2004 per capita GDP which was 356

US dollars. The poverty rate is also reduced . We see an average of 1 percent a year.

Cambodia is open for the involvement of civil society such as, local and international NGOs, community-based organizations, and as well as private sectors to share responsibilities in responding to the needs of Cambodian people, especially to the needs of women and children. Thousands of NGOs have been established in the country and are carrying on their activities in different fields . They join as partnership and offer support to the Government in sharing comments, in mapping out policies, initiatives as well as, in implementing policies and programs.

International NGOs and the United Nations are considered as development partners and work closely with the Government to support and identify the flaws and outstanding issues to improve the performance of the policies and project implementation.

Gender inequality is the priority concept which has been addressed in Government laws and strategies. The Royal Government of Cambodia is very committed to promoting gender equality as has been considered in its Rectangular Strategy for progress, employment, and equity that women are the back-bone of socio-economic development. Gender mainstreaming is a priority that needs to be addressed in the Government mandates. The Ministry of Women's Affairs is a national mechanism in ensuring the commitment of Government institutions in gender mainstreaming activities .

Her Majesty the Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk is the honourable Chair of the National Council for Women (CNCW) and the Prime Minister is the honourable Vice-Chair. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia is actively supporting the strategies of CNCW, which is another mechanism established for the promotion of gender equality at senior Government levels, particularly, for monitoring the implementation of the CEDAW convention.

The Millennium Development Goal of Cambodia is an 8+1 Goal including indicators on the elimination of domestic violence. The Ministry of Women Affairs established a legal unit and a Domestic Violence Unit to respond to the violence against women's issues. In 2005, the Law on the Prevention on Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims was adopted. At the same time, the awareness-raising, media campaigns and activities for public advocacy on Domestic Violence Law and knowledge are putting into place. The capacity development has been conducted through trainings including Training of Trainers

(TOT) of Government officials at all levels; national, provincial districts and local, including police authority and NGOs. The social services for victims of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women have promoted the quality of social services and have improved its activities by cooperating with the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) and Institute for Social Work (ISW).

The Ministry of Women's Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health, and with further collaboration of the Ministry of Justice will be able to function as a monitoring mechanism and further strengthen its strategies.

A National Action Plan on Prevention of Violence against Women will be adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2008.

The law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation was adopted in December 2007 and has started to be implemented. A strategic plan on Women, the Girl Child and HIV/AIDS including Spousal and Partner transmission, was launched in 2007 by the initiatives of the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

At present, the Royal Government of Cambodia established a National Committee on the promotion of Social Morality, Women and Family Values, honourably chaired by the First Lady – Madam Bun Rany Hun Sen. This Committee is fully and actively committed to take action to combat against all forms of violence against women and girl-children.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The commitment of the Government to fulfill the CMDG is very crucial and needs the available sources and involvement of stakeholder's especially male involvement due to his experiences in superiority in all contexts which is needed to share equally with women.

In conclusion, on behalf of my Government, I would like to urge very strongly that all the efforts and commitments of the Royal Government of Cambodia should be taken into consideration and we solicit support of the international community to assist us in carrying out our policies and struggle to eliminate all forms of violence against women, children in Cambodia.

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