



Statement by H.E. Mr. HOR Namhong
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- *Madam President,*
- *Excellencies,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

1. *At the outset, on behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, let me extend our heartfelt congratulations to H.E. Ms. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain for her election to the presidency of the 61st Session of the General Assembly. The election to this important post is a testament to Your Excellency's distinctive abilities and impressive achievements over the years. I am convinced that, under your direction, this year's Session would commendably achieve its conclusion.*

2. *Please allow me also to pay tribute to the visions and tireless efforts of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in promoting global peace and in taking the necessary steps to encourage many initiatives for the reform of the United Nations. Our appreciation is also addressed to H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson for his efficient leadership as the President of the 60th Session of the General Assembly as well as for his countless contributions to the UN reform initiatives.*

-*Madam President,*

3. *In the face of uncertainties and challenges, where the world seems to be inundated with conflicts and serious threats, such as proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), terrorism, environmental degradation and infectious diseases, it is important for us all to keep our commitment to maintain peace and security in the world. In addition, I believe that reduction of global poverty and sustainable development in many developing countries in this world are vital for human security*

and a **daunting task** for the United Nations as a catalyst of the international community to contribute to improve the situation of these countries.

WMD :

4. On the proliferation of **weapons of mass destruction**, Cambodia is of the view that the international community needs to be more vigilant about this issue and to ensure that **WMD—in part or in whole—does not fall into** the wrong hands of **terrorists**, organized crime groups, or others, which could have dangerous implications for international peace and security. In this regard, we need to strengthen the **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** regime in order to secure a better and more peaceful world for all. In the other hand, small arms and light weapons should not be underestimated as they are equally dangerous sources of conflicts, transnational crimes and violence in many regions and countries.

Terrorism :

5. The **fight against terrorism** remains an utmost **important priority** for all governments and the United Nations given its continuing threats, despite serious measures and actions have been taken by governments and international and regional organizations at various levels, including this world body. To combat terrorism effectively, requires, I believe, more efforts, more technical capacity, more education, more information-sharing among law enforcement authorities and intelligent communities, and may be more understanding in some specific cases of the root cause of acts of violence which are tantamount to despair actions.

The Middle East Crisis :

6. On the **Middle East** crisis, we have to congratulate the UNSC for its resolution No 1701 to end the recent war in Lebanon. We call upon all parties concerned to fully respect this resolution in order to prevent repetition of the conflict and the loss of life of the innocent people. In the same vein, the international community should work more actively to help bring about a permanent end of violence between Palestine and Israel. I believe that the peace in the **Middle East** will be better guaranteed only when the leaders of both sides - **Palestine and**

*Israel -have the courage, the wisdom and the realization that they cannot continue to destroy each other forever, but to **work together** for a lasting peace in the region. Both **Israel** and **Palestine** have the rights to coexist as independent and sovereign states. At the same time, they need to overcome their historical animosity and hatred toward each other. Whether they like it or not, both **Israel** and **Palestine** are destined to coexist as neighbors forever. I strongly believe that a peaceful solution of the Israeli - Palestinian conflict would lend a foundation for a durable peace and security in the whole **Middle East**.*

- Madam President,

UN Reform :

*7. With regard to the **UN reform**, it is clear that in recent years every member - state in this world body wanted the United Nations to be reformed. However when the opportunity has been given to do so, we are facing a deadlock on this very important issue, because too much emphasis had been placed only on the reform of the Security Council. In this regard, I think that we should learn from the present lesson and try to avoid repeating any mistake in the future. In other words, we should take a step-by-step approach by tackling minor problems first, such as strengthening the role of **ECOSOC** to deal with development, since this issue is less controversial and there is more inclination to support it. Next, we may consider revitalizing the **UN General Assembly** as the sole body representative of all member-states in the United Nations. Afterward, we can move forward to the reform of **the UNSC**. We have to start first with issues where consensus could be easily reached, and then move to the more difficult ones, without having to completely stall the UN reform process.*

Millennium Development Goals :

- Madam President,

*8. Since its adoption in 2000, by and large there has been some progress in achieving the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**. But, in actuality, for the **developing countries**, there have been little achievements thus far due to a number of factors, such as the lack of financial and human resources, including the negative impact of globalization which has led to the widening gap between developed countries and the poor nations. For **Cambodia**, the Royal Government has set up its own MDGs called the **Cambodia Millennium Development***

*Goals (CMDGs), with specific target priorities. Since then, Cambodia has made positive progress in some areas, such as reducing poverty, combating the HIV/AIDS and improving the livelihoods of the people, thanks to the **Rectangular Strategy** of the Royal Government. In 2005, for example, Cambodia's economic growth rate was unexpectedly reached 13.4%, after having had a regular increase of GDP from 7% to 10 % since the launch of our own MDG's.*

Global Poverty

- Madam President,

9. *Extreme poverty in the world today is an affront to the whole world 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, in spite of the commitment of the **MDGs** since the year 2000. To tackle this crucial problem, it requires painstaking efforts at the national and international levels. Eradication of poverty is, first and foremost, the responsibility of the whole world and requires cooperation of the developed countries, international organizations, as well as the private sector. Given the enormous resources and wealth of this world, I believe that no one on this planet should be left hungry, while in developed countries there is an oversupply of food which has led to a wasteful dumping.*

10. *To deal with global poverty, a comprehensive approach and collective actions are needed. ODA, debt relief, market access, transfer of know-how, FDI and so forth, must be addressed altogether, so that developing countries can catch up with the current globalization and to bridge the gap between peoples and nations in this world we all are living in.*

Conclusion :

11. *Finally, let me reiterate that our world today continues to face **major global threats and challenges**. The role of the United Nations in dealing with these phenomena is of **paramount importance** for the humankind. Therefore, Cambodia hopes that the **UN reform** would **move ahead** to significantly contribute to deal with these challenges successfully.*

Thank you very much.