



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Thavrak TUON

Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning
Royal Government of Cambodia

at the

47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

New York, 7-11 April 2014

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Heads of Delegations of the Member States,
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

The Delegation of the Royal Government of Cambodia would like to thank the Secretary-General for tabling the three reports which will form the basis for discussions at this historic event, the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). The Cambodian Delegation considers this Session of the CPD as an opportunity to share our national achievements since we recovered in 1993 from years of instability and civil strife. We have made considerable progress since our commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action, especially in the area of maternal mortality reduction, fertility decline, gender equality and containment of the spread of HIV. However, this Session also provides an opportunity to confirm the advancement of our efforts to improve the lives of our people with equity and dignity in the years to come and to ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

We wish to thank the UN System which, through the leadership of the UNFPA worked closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia on a review process through a global survey through a series of consultations and reviews in the Asia Pacific Region and supported national consultations, including those with the civil society to produce the “Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the ICPD beyond 2014”. We endorse that the operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action was done based on the use of the highest-quality data and analysis. We also welcome the fact that the Royal Government of Cambodia’s Country Specific report on the status and progress of the ICPD implementation was recognized as being consistent with the GA Resolution 65/234 on the follow up to the implementation of the Programme of Action beyond 2014.

In this country specific report, we demonstrate that Cambodia has made significant progress in adopting and implementing national development policies and key sectorial strategies to achieve better development results, focusing on the strengthening of human capital being guided by human rights standards and principles; strengthening of efforts to improve gender equality, equity and women’s empowerment; addressing adolescent reproductive health; forging new partnerships with the civil society and the private sector; and promoting integration of population dynamics and trends into development planning and policymaking.

Due to the fact that the fertility and mortality levels have declined substantially, the country at present is going through a phase of rapid demographic transition, which has opened up the demographic window of opportunity wherein a large number of youth are of the working ages and getting ready to enter the labour market to lead further economic development and take advantage of the declining dependency ratio. Taking cognizance of the impacts of population dynamics, reproductive health and gender on poverty, the Royal Government of Cambodia will seek to further strive to improve the quality of its people’s standard of living through the next National Strategic Development Plan that responds to new challenges pertaining to population and development and the changing development environment and reinforces the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development.

In the “Rectangular Strategy” for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency Phase III, the Royal Government of Cambodia places a priority on issues which have significant implications for development. This Strategy gives priority to increasing national wealth distribution and reducing income inequalities; addressing unfulfilled gender equality and empowerment of women; building a strong human capital in the country, especially for young people; addressing the inequalities in universal access to sexual and reproductive health services especially for women and young people, including the strengthening of the health systems both in rural and urban areas; and for reaching the country’s ethnic minorities.

We, therefore, welcome the report of the SG and note that it addresses in a comprehensive manner, ways to enhance individual capabilities and resilience and ensure sustainable development for the Cambodian people. We share the conclusion of the report that investing in human capital and dignity across the multiple segments of the ICPD and throughout the life-course, and recognizing individual human rights and choices provide the foundations for sustainable development of the country.

The delegation looks forward to the negotiations on the draft resolution presented by the Chairman of the Commission. We are pleased to restate in the 47th CPD, our support for further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, already expressed in the 6th Asia Pacific Population Conference. The Royal Government of Cambodia supports a continuous and more effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action for the coming years and encourages all member states not only to recognize the overall progress which has been made but also to endorse the need for a further implementation, recognizing the importance of the outcome of this Commission and the Post 2015 Development agenda.