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**ADDRESS OF
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KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

AT THE 59TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**NEW YORK, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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*Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,*

1. At the outset, I wish to join other member-states in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election of the 59th Session of the General Assembly. Given your extensive experience and wisdom, I am confident that you will be steering successfully the course of this session, which is important for the challenging world that we live in today.

2. While commending the efforts and contribution of H.E. Mr. Julian Hunte to the United Nations, as president of the 58th General Assembly, I wish also to express my appreciation to Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his commitment, dedication, and leadership in working toward the realization of the objectives and missions of the UN in our increasingly complex world at present.

I. The Global Situation

Mr. President,

3. On the global situation, I wish to touch on a number of issues briefly which I believe that this General Assembly and the International Community should pay close attention to.

4. First, global uncertainties. Today, we are indeed living in a challenging world, where global uncertainties, violence and conflict continue unabatedly. Since September 11th, the world is no longer the same, but yet peace, security, and stability for many parts of the world remain to a large extent elusive. It is in this context, I believe, that we need to renew our firm commitment to international peace and security, non

violence and sustainable development in all parts of the globe. Undoubtedly, the UN needs to continue to play even a greater role in the maintenance of international peace and security and also positively engage in economic development, poverty reduction, conflict prevention so as to make our planet a better place to live.

5. **Second, fighting terrorism.** Since 9-11, the responses to terrorism at global, regional, and national levels have been significant and massive. Cooperation in the fight against terrorism has been unprecedented in the history of information sharing and law enforcement. Nevertheless, in spite of the progress in our efforts, countries from around the world continue to suffer from terrorist attacks and innocent people continue to die from terrorist acts. Therefore, I believe that our response to this deadly threat to humanity must be more comprehensive. However, while fighting terrorism relentlessly, I also believe that we should do our best to understand the real root causes of terrorism. Until we are able to do this, then we can hope to eliminate terrorism.

6. **Third, globalization.** Although it is true that globalization has brought about much progress to the world, I think that it is essential for us to assess the current negative repercussions of globalization on the least developed countries (LDCs.) Several years ago, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) issued an important study on globalization in its *Human Development Report*. I believe it is now the time for us to look at this issue once again and to ensure that the negative impacts of globalization on the developing world are not being forgotten. In fact, more attention and greater priority of the UN, particularly the

UNDP, needs to focus on the marginalization of the developing countries in today's global economy and development.

7. **Fourth, the Millennium Development Goals.** Today, many of the developing countries, in particular the LDCs, have been working hard to meet these MDGs. Despite the progress in some areas such as macroeconomic framework aiming to achieve long-term economic growth and sustainable development, the MDGs have not produced meaningful results thus far. The implementation of the MDGs needs full commitments of all countries involved, if the, MDGs are to be successful. Such commitments must be sustained over time in order for the MDGs to produce concrete results.

8. **Fifth, poverty reduction.** Poverty in many parts of the globe remains one of the greatest challenges in the world today, with over 1,2 billion people who survive under US\$ 1.00 per day. From the Millennium Summit in New York to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg; from the UN Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey to the G-8 Summit in Evian, the key message was bold and clear: **the fight against poverty.** Poverty reduction in the world is not the sole liability of the developing countries alone, but it is also a shared global responsibility of the international community, in particular the developed countries. Perhaps, it is the time for more concrete actions than declarations.

9. **Sixth, the current energy situation.** Given the present energy situation, I think that the international community needs to properly and timely address this issue meaningfully and urgently in a global context, as the skyrocketed oil prices affected the global economy, especially the non-oil producing

countries. Therefore, I believe that the oil producing countries should consider and take into account of the overall interests and take a long-term review of the whole international community.

II. **Regional Developments**

Mr. President,

10. First, on the Middle East conflict. I believe that the international community should continue to support the inalienable and sacred right of the Palestinian people for an independent state. It also should urge all parties involved to stop violence once and for all. In my view, peace must be given a chance, and all parties concerned must put aside their hatred and historical animosity. Both the Palestinians and the Israelites must realize that they have equal rights to coexist and they must learn to live side by side in peace and harmony for the sake of their own peoples and peace in the region.

11. Second, with regard to the situation in Iraq. I believe that the current endless violence and conflict there has not provided a conducive environment for national reconciliation and reconstruction. I think that the UN and the international community must do everything possible to restore peace, security, and political stability to Iraq so that the Iraqi people will have a chance to choose in a sovereign manner their own leaders and regime. Democracy, I believe, can never be exported nor imported. It is a state of mind that has to learn.

12. Third, the Korean Peninsula. Cambodia continues to support the peace talks, particularly the Six-Party Talks

convening by China and the ongoing dialogue between North and South Korea. Cambodia also welcomes the talks between the People's Democratic Republic of Korea and Japan on the sideline of the Six-Party Talks. Cambodia believes that constructive dialogue and consultation among the parties involved are the only choice for a peaceful resolution of the problem.

13. Fourth, Taiwan. I believe that the Taiwan issue is central to regional peace and security. Cambodia is of the view that the Taiwan question is not only a vital issue to China but also to the region and the world as a whole. Earlier this year, Taiwan had attempted to push ahead its separation from the mainland China by attempting to integrate itself into international organizations. Fortunately, such maneuver has not been successful; otherwise, it could have posed serious political and security implications for the Asia Pacific region. Cambodia, like other members of the community of nations, has been unequivocally supporting for a genuine Policy, as we recognize the fact that Taiwan is an integral part of China,

III. Reform of the United Nations

Mr. President,

14. At this General Assembly, every year, most of the members of this global institution have been calling for the reform of the United Nations, especially the UN Security Council (UNSC). Indeed, Cambodia is of the view that reforming the Security Council is essential not only to the

credibility of this Council, but also to the UN system as well

15. The reform of the UNSC will undoubtedly help strengthen this world institution, as it will reflect the realities of the world today: By reforming the UNSC through the enlargement of the membership, we will make the Council more representative, more democratic, more efficient, which is vital for the member-states of the UN to make contributions in addressing the complex challenges in the world today.

16. Cambodia believes that the UNSC reform should be achieved by expanding its permanent and non permanent members. In this regard, Cambodia supports Japan, Germany, and India as the new permanent members of the Council. These three countries have become more and more important players in international politics.

17. Finally, Cambodia wishes to appeal to all UN member-states to support its candidacy for the non-permanent seat of the Security Council for 2006 - 2007. Since joining the UN in 1955, Cambodia never had held any position within this world body while it has always been cooperating closely with the UN.

IV. Cambodia

Mr. President,

18. On Cambodia, with the formation of the new government in July this year and the adoption of the Rectangular Strategy, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has given its top priority on building good governance

based on a comprehensive approach in the four key areas of reform; fighting corruption, legal and judicial reform, public administration reform, and armed forces reform and demobilization. For Cambodia to succeed in building good governance, the RGC has to undertake the following 'four pillars of strategy:

- First, enhancing peace, political stability and social order;
- Second, strengthening its integration into the regional and international organizations;
- Third, building its partnership in development; and
- Fourth, sustaining favorable macroeconomic and financial environment.

19. Late last year, the Royal Government of Cambodia released a report of the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals, with priorities on education, health care, rural development, agriculture, gender equality, and the environment. Cambodia is fully committed to implement the Cambodian MDGs, which are the cornerstone of Cambodia's development policy. The ultimate goal of the Royal Government of Cambodia is to ensure that, by 2015, improvements will be achieved in these sectors of life, poverty, and prevalence of HIV/AIDS will be reduced.

V. Conclusion

Mr. President,

20. In conclusion, I believe that we need to ensure that the MDGs should be followed up and carried out as a response to, the hope of billions of poor peoples living in the developing world. I also think that we need to continue addressing the negative sides of globalization, particularly for those countries and peoples that have been further marginalized by globalization. Moreover, I feel that poverty reduction remains a top priority not only for many developing countries, but also a responsibility of the developed world in order for us to secure a better future for the whole humanity.

21. Given all the challenges that are posing greater threats to our world today – poverty, terrorism, the epidemic of infectious diseases, violence and conflicts, environmental degradation, and many more, I firmly believe that we need a stronger UN, a UN that embraces changes and reforms to address those challenges in the most effective way. I feel that the UN must look up to the ideals, aspirations, visions and the noble goals of not only the UN of the past, but more importantly of the UN of today and of tomorrow, which is to be truly representative, fully democratic, fully committed to the cause of the whole humanity, and taking on greater responsibility to manage all, of the challenges facing our world today.

Thank you.

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