



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT
BY
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ON THE AGENDA ITEM: 3

- (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;**
- (b) Assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.**

AT THE FIFTY SEVENTH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

(New York, 29 April – 3 May 2024)

**Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honor for me to address the 57th session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC). We acknowledge the importance of this session in reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during this critical decade of action.

Cambodia remains steadfast in its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and actively contributes to its follow-up and review process. I am proud to stand before you today and share the remarkable progress we have made in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and achieving sustainable development goals, particularly in areas such as reproductive health, gender equality, and youth empowerment.

Since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action, Cambodia has undergone a transformative journey. We have made great strides in improving access to sexual and reproductive health services, reducing maternal mortality, and increasing contraceptive prevalence. It is with great pride that I announce Cambodia's ranking as number one in the 2023 Asia Pacific Contraceptive Policy Atlas, a testament to our unwavering dedication to ensuring universal access to family planning and reproductive health services. Maternal mortality has significantly decreased from 472 per 100,000 live births in 2005 to 154 in 2021, while skilled birth attendance has risen from 49% in 2005 to an impressive 99% in 2021. Furthermore, the contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 27% in 2005 to 45% in 2021, and the unmet need for family planning has dropped from 25% in 2005 to 12% in 2021.

A remarkable progress in empowering youth through comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) also deserves attention. The percentage of women aged 15-19 who have ever been pregnant decreased from 12% in 2014 to 9.3% in 2021. CSE has been integrated into national curricula, making it mandatory for grades 5-12, and strategies are in place to ensure out-of-school youth also receive this critical education.

Cambodia recognizes the urgent need to eliminate, prevent, and respond to all forms of gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination against women and girls. We are committed to addressing harmful social and gender norms, providing survivor-centered response services, promoting positive masculinities, and fully engaging men and boys in the fight against GBV. The RGC is developing national policies and legal frameworks that protect and promote the rights of women and girls and facilitate their participation in economic, social, and political spheres.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Cambodia's steadfast commitment to the 12 National Commitments we made at the Nairobi Summit. To support the realization of these commitments, Cambodia has established an inter-ministerial Special Committee on the ICPD Programme of Action through a Sub-Decree, demonstrating our unwavering dedication to the Nairobi commitments. This committee is led by the Ministry of Planning and comprising 24 ministries, UNFPA, and 2 CSO representatives as observers, as well as its 25 sub-national commissions. Additionally, the Cambodia Strategic Framework Action Plan 2024-2030 (CSFAP 2024-30) provides a groundbreaking, costed roadmap with defined areas of responsibility and agreed indicators for monitoring by respective ministries.

As we gather here today to address the theme of this session, we recognize the profound impact of population dynamics on sustainable development. Given the current Cambodian demographic dividend situation, we understand the paramount importance of cultivating and harnessing the potential of its young population.

However, we acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead, including addressing inequality, climate change, and the economic impacts of COVID-19 and global events. Cambodia remains resolute in its commitment to tackling these challenges head-on, working in collaboration with our international partners and civil society organizations.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, let us seize this opportunity to renew our collective commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Cambodia's unique solutions and *collaborative approach* serve as a beacon of hope, a testament to our dedication to creating a brighter future for all. Together, we can build a world where every individual can realize their full potential, where gender equality is a reality, and where no one is left behind.

Thank you.