



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

327 East 58th Street, New York, NY 10022
TEL: (212) 336-0777 FAX: (212) 759-7672



STATEMENT
BY
H.E. Dr. BUNNAK POCH
SECRETARY OF STATE, MINISTRY OF PLANNING
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

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) Review and appraisal 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.**

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

(New York, 1 - 5 April 2019)

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Foremost, the delegation of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) records its appreciation of the Secretary-General's delivery of a number of valuable reports, bringing to light key considerations and issues, and providing a solid basis for the discussions at this 52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). Cambodia welcomes the theme of this year's session and expresses its ongoing support to the *Programme of Action of the CPD*, and specifically recognizes the value the programme offers to achievement of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Today, we celebrate the 25 years of the Programme of Action. This is also a period which has seen Cambodia's emergence as a rapidly developing nation following troubled history marked by a terrible genocide and protracted conflict. In the years since then, Cambodia observed profound demographic changes – our population has grown from 11 to over 16 million, and the demographic transition is well advanced – with fertility declining from 5 births per woman in 1994 to 2.7 births in 2014. In turn, from 2000 to 2014 infant mortality declined from 95 to 28 deaths per 1,000 live births, the under 5 mortality declined from 124 to 35 per 1,000 live births, and the Maternal Mortality Rate declined from 472 to 170 per 100,000 live births. Equally the percentage of women with unmet needs for family planning declined from 32.6% to 12.5%. At the same time, real terms GDP per capita grew nearly 4-fold from 1994 to 2018 and the poverty headcount declined from around 47% in 2007 to an estimated 10% in 2017.

Such changes could not have occurred without the Government's efforts, commitment, and adoption of ICPD PoA, placing people at the center of all interventions. The ICPD has been a guiding framework for the RGC's core development policies and strategic development plans. These include in the current period - the Rectangular Strategy Phase 4, the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023 and a number of national population-centered policies (notably National Population Policy, National Policy of the Youth Development, National Ageing Policy, Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals-CSDGs Framework 2016-2030, Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025, Health Strategic Plan 2016-2023, and Gender Strategic Plan *Neary Ratanak*). Despite great achievements, these policy documents make clear the Government's acknowledgement of the need for further improvement, especially in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights, family planning, education and the skills of young working people, as well as the management of migration and urbanization. Moreover, these issues are given greater importance by the rapid pace of Cambodia's demographic transition, and the need to fully seize the opportunities of the demographic dividend that has emerged in the past decade.

Mr. Chairman!

The importance and necessity of integrating population dimensions in initiatives and processes – putting people’s needs and aspirations – as a key consideration in developing policy and programme interventions has been fully recognized by the RGC. These are key to speeding up the pace of sustainable development, eradicating poverty and improving quality of life of the population, and it is important these are effectively translated into actions, development policies and strategic plans.

The Royal Government also recognizes that high quality population data is a fundamental requirement to enable effective policymaking and management of programmes. In this regard, Cambodia has increased the national budget for national surveys, and to conduct the 2019 national population census in line with international standards. These efforts are also vital in populating statistical measures, including the targets and indicators for Cambodia’s national SDG framework, and in turn delivering improved public services for all people in all localities. As such, the comprehensive National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2018-2023 has been launched and adopted.

Cambodia remains fully a strong supporter of this international conference - and specifically the follow-up and review of the ICPD PoA and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda. The Royal Government reaffirms its support to achieving the PoA and advocates for full implementation of the ICPD’s commitment to: comprehensive sex education; universal access to sexual and reproductive health, to maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition services; and to family planning. As affirmed in the SDGs, delivery of these commitments are vital if we are to realize the vision for a world where maternal, perinatal, infant and child mortality is preventable; where family planning needs and reproductive health rights are met; where gender-based violence and harmful practices are eliminated; where young people can live healthy and productive lives, and where stigmatization and discrimination have no place in society.

The RGC remains committed to adopting CPD declarations, recommendations, and the PoA, and will seek to advance the ICPD PoA through bringing together governments, UN agencies, civil society, private sector, women’s groups and youth networks to effectively address challenges, discuss and agree actions to move forward in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Cambodia’s delegation stands ready to endorse decisions made at this 52nd Session of the ICPD – to deliver sustainable and inclusive global prosperity – which ensures ***no country, no group, no locality, and no one, is left behind.***

Thank you for your attention.