



Statement

by

His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong

Deputy Prime Minister

*Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation of the*

Kingdom of Cambodia

at

the 69th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly General Debate



New York, 29 September 2014

**Statement by H.E. Mr. HOR Namhong
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**Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, allow me to warmly congratulate His Excellency Sam Kutesa of the Republic of Uganda, for his election as the President of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I have full confidence that under your chairmanship the 69th session will proceed to a successful conclusion.

I would like also to take this opportunity to extend my high appreciation to His Excellency John William Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda for his wise leadership and relentless efforts as President of the 68th session in guiding us to many outstanding achievements during the last session.

I. Political Security Situation

Mr. President,

In many ways, the world in which we are living is at a critical juncture and the current picture is rather bleak. The international community remains seriously concerned over recent geo-political security development in many parts of the world.

The self-declared Islamic State (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria and their horrendous crimes are menacing peace, security and stability in these countries which have already been seriously hit by arms conflicts and acts of violence.

In Syria, the continued armed hostilities have caused not only deaths of thousands of innocent people and children, but also millions of refugees;

In Africa, some countries have also suffered by arms conflicts and violence which have given rise of danger for peace and stability in this part of the world.

All these armed conflicts and crimes are threatening peace, stability and human security not only in these regions, but also the world at large.

To contribute to the peace process in the Middle East and Africa, Cambodia has participated actively in the United Nations Peacekeeping operations. We have dispatched more than 2,000 peacekeepers to Lebanon, Mali and South Sudan. In November of this year, we will deploy another detachment of 216 peacekeepers to Central African Republic for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA).

While extremism is threatening the world peace and security, the spread of epidemic infection of EBOLA in Africa has also become one of the worst threats to the world today. It is of critical importance that international community should make concerted efforts to address this global challenge in an effective and timely manner.

With regard to the hostilities between Palestine and Israel, despite the fragile ceasefire recently concluded, it remains a serious concern. We call on all parties to make efforts for the resumption of meaningful peace talks in order to find a viable political solution of two states living peacefully side by side.

Cambodia believes that this is the only path to put definitively an end to this long lasting conflict.

The situation in the eastern part of Europe, in spite of the delicate ceasefire, is still worrisome and its implication could revert to Cold War.

In Asia, the launching of missiles by DPRK has set off international concern and aggravated the situation in the region. The Six-Party Talks should be resumed in order to explore possible avenue for peaceful dialogue to bring about a peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

II. Climate Change

Mr. President,

Climate change is nowadays obviously a global challenge as well as a Human Security issue. The rapid pace of climate change is having devastating effects for both developed and developing countries. The developing countries, mostly dependent on agriculture, suffer worse from similar negative effects of climate change, such as frequent typhoon, storm, flood and draught etc... For instance, in 2013, heavy monsoon rains caused extensive flooding across Cambodia, claiming 168 lives, causing one billion of dollars of damages and affected 1.8 million people.

And this year also, 12 provinces among 25 provinces and cities of Cambodia have suffered by flood, killing 45 people and afflicted almost 100.000 families.

According to a report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the global warming caused by the increase of greenhouse gases, is generated by human's use of fossil fuel. It is no doubt that industrialized countries, which consume most of the world's fossil fuel, emit the largest amount of greenhouse gas, while the developing countries, which produce little of such gases, become the main victims

of the climate change. Therefore, it is imperative that the international community provides further impetus to revitalize and prioritize actions to address climate change based on the UN principles of “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.”

Having this concept in mind, while applauding the fruitful outcome of the recent UN Climate Change Summit, held on 23 September 2014 in New York, Cambodia looks forward with hope that the 21st Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP-21) to be held in Paris in December 2015, could bring about concrete measures to reach a new global agreement with legal force applicable to all Parties under the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In line with the United Nations principles for sustainable development, and to mitigate the threat of climate change, Cambodia has adopted its national “Strategic Plan on Green Development for 2013-2030”, which aims at achieving economic and social development in a sustainable manner, while at the same time protecting the environment, through the efficient use of raw materials and natural resources, clean development and green preservation. Cambodia has adopted as well several legal instruments for the green growth development, including the memorandum of understanding on green growth cooperation between Cambodia and South Korea's Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the National Council of Green Growth.

South East Asia which is highly vulnerable to the adverse impact of the climate change, has established the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI) in 2009 as a consultative body to further increase the region's capacity in both mitigation and adaptation effort. As a member of ASEAN, Cambodia is fully engaged in the implementation of this ASEAN's initiative through the ASEAN Working Group on

Climate Change and the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Responses to Climate Change with a goal of enhancing closer and deeper regional and international cooperation on climate change.

III. MDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda

Mr. President,

Next year marks the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While some MDGs targets have been achieved, we have to acknowledge that much more efforts are needed to reach the set goals of the MDGs, as progress has been uneven and insufficient. Many developing countries did not attain their MDGs primarily due to unfulfilled commitments, lack of resources, insufficient dedication, and food insecurity. The situation was further aggravated by the financial uncertainty in the developed countries which have an effect on their commitment to ODA. Therefore, bolder and more focused global efforts are needed as we approach the final year to realize the MDGs.

With the aim of realizing the MDGs, Cambodia has adopted our own development targets, known as the “Cambodia MDGs” (CMDGs), which are incorporated comprehensively into our National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2014-2018. As a result, substantial progress has been achieved, positioning Cambodia to meet some goals of MDGs by the end of 2015. Cambodia’s target in reducing poverty rate to 19.5% by 2015 has already been achieved ahead of schedule as the nation’s poverty rate has already reached 19% in 2013. As a result, Cambodia received a UN Award for halving hunger before the deadline.

In combating HIV/AIDS, Cambodia has made great stride by progressively reducing HIV prevalence to 0.6% in 2013. To achieve this indicator, the Cambodian government has further adopted a policy of “Getting to Zero”, aiming to

realize Zero new infections, Zero AIDS-related deaths, and Zero discrimination by 2020.

In addition to tracking Cambodia MDGs achievement, the Royal Government of Cambodia has put forth a Cambodia MDG Acceleration Framework with approach to accelerate the progress of the MDGs and other human development goals. This framework could provide the essential inputs for the implementation of our National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) to complete the remaining MDGs as well as to set the stage for the preparation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Cambodia shares the view expressed by the High Level Panel of Eminent Person in their report to be adopted during this 69th Session that “a new development agenda should carry forward the spirit of the Millennium Declaration and the best of the MDGs, with a practical focus on poverty, hunger, water, sanitation, education and healthcare”.

Cambodia is of the view that the post-2015 development agenda should be realistic and built upon the lessons learned from the difficulties in the realization of the MDGs, in particular to ensure that any process towards a broader development objective should be truly balanced and comprehensive.

IV. UN Reform

Mr. President,

The year 2015 is a crucial year as the UN celebrates the 70th anniversary of its creation and the 10th anniversary of the 2005 World Summit where world leaders agreed to reform the United Nations to meet the need of today’s geo-politic and global challenges. To this end, the General Assembly should be more empowered so that it can play a leading role to strengthen the wider UN system.

The Security Council, as a body mandated with the primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security should represent today's world's realities.

In sum, a more equitable representation in the UN organs would reflect the need to cope with the global challenges.

Thank you!