



Statement

by

*His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation of the
Kingdom of Cambodia*

at

*the General Debate of the 64th Session
of the UN General Assembly*

New York, 26 September 2009

**Statement by H.E. Mr. HOR Namhong,
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly General
New York, 26 September 2009**

**Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. *First of all, I would like to echo the previous speakers to warmly congratulate Excellency Ali Abdessalam Treki of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on his election as President of the 64th session of this General Assembly. I am confident that under his able stewardship as a veteran of the United Nations, the 64th General Assembly will make significant progress on many critical issues of common concerns. Our tribute also goes to His Excellency Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann from Nicaragua who had successfully presided over the 63rd Session.*

**Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

2. *Everyone is concerned with the considerable challenges that our world today is confronted with, such as the current global economic and financial crisis, climate change, food and energy insecurity and the threats of Terrorism and WMD proliferation. I hope that the deliberations of this august Assembly will come up with new ideas to cope with those global challenges.*

GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS:

3. *There is no doubt that the present global economic and financial crisis will go down into the history as a landmark case in the world's economic meltdown. This global crisis has clearly undermined the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While the developed*

countries have more possibilities and resources to cope with the slowdown, the developing countries have suffered the most with a huge loss of national income as their economic growth is expected to fall sharply due to a drastic reduction in export which they have largely been dependent on, to the falling of investment, and the rising of unemployment and so forth

- 4. In order to help mitigate the impact of this economic and financial disaster on developing countries, I am of the view that we should do everything possible to get the Doha Round negotiation back on track for a successful conclusion in order to break down barriers to trade, to better market access, particularly in agricultural goods, and to reduce agricultural subsidies. In this regard, Cambodia greatly appreciates the commitment of G20 made in Pittsburg, just two days ago, to "...bring the Doha Round to a successful conclusion in 2010." At the same time, the Monterrey Consensus should be invigorated in order to help developing countries to alleviate poverty and meet the MDGs.*
- 5. Under these terrible circumstances, we warmly welcome the G-20's commitment made in London, in April 2009, to address the impact of the global financial crisis with the injection of US\$ 50 billion to support social protection, boost trade and sustain development in the low income countries and an additional US\$ 6 billion concessional and flexible finance over the next 2 to 3 years for social protection, including through investing in long-term food security, in the poorest countries.*

**Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

CLIMATE CHANGE:

- 6. Today, everyone in the globe is more and more concerned with the climate change, which is another most serious threat to humanity.*

Global warming has triggered more and more frequent cyclones, typhoons, extreme floods and droughts. Our planet is now confronted, more than ever, with increasing natural disasters. The worsening impact of climate change has now reached an alarming level everywhere around the planet. The shrinking of the Arctic summer sea ice should be an alarming signal for everyone that the global warming is inexorably advancing and with a perilous speed.

- 7. With respect to Southeast Asia, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), it will be the most affected region. This region's vulnerability to climate change is largely a result of its geography with low-lying nations and long coastlines. The negative impact from climate change on farming in Southeast Asia would seriously jeopardize the production of rice and other agricultural products, and consequently would have ripple effects on food security, as Southeast Asia is one of the world's most important rice crop regions. Based on ADB's estimate, the total cost of loss in agricultural production and other negative effect of climate change would be equivalent to as much as 6.7% of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) compared, to the 2.6% loss estimated for the world as a whole.*
- 8. As far as Cambodia is concerned, it is an essentially agrarian country with more than 80 percent of its population whose livelihood depends on farming. Therefore, it is very vulnerable to weather-related disasters. Fully aware of the danger and the serious consequences of the climate change and global warming on the well-being, the livelihood and development of the peoples around the world, Cambodia has been assuming its share of responsibility towards global warming since 2003. We have made our utmost efforts to implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol by promoting Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects as well as implementing the National Adaptation Program of Action on Climate Change (NAPA).*

9. We have also launched a major campaign of reforestation all over the country where more than 49,000 hectares of trees have been planted. We also banned on timber's exports. In this context, Cambodia warmly welcomes the recent US initiative to engage with the Lower Mekong Basin countries by sharing its best practices and experiences on climate change, flood and water resource management with the Mekong countries. At the same time, the Mekong countries and Japan are now looking into the future approach to achieve sustainable development of the Mekong basin potential, with better respect for the environment of the mighty Mekong River.

10. Furthermore, Cambodia commends the recent G8's promises at their summit on July 8 to work toward an 80 percent cut in heat-trapping pollution by 2050. **Nonetheless, since climate change is evolving steadily with time, we may question whether the pledge reduction can match with the speed of global warming.** I believe that the industrialized countries, which produce 80 % of the greenhouse gases, should share greater responsibility and take more drastic and urgent measures to reduce the emission of these deadly gases.

11. Governments around the world have just over 3 months to craft a new treaty to deal with global warming. It will be a historic treaty for generations to come. The UN Climate Change Conference in Denmark in December this year could secure a milestone plan to really slowdown climate change for the safety of the whole humankind. **Therefore, Cambodia believes that all countries and all actors to join hands to reach an Agreement in Copenhagen.** It is an obligation of the international community to roll back global temperatures before it is too late. The future generations of our children and grandchildren are at stake.

FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY:

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. *On Food and Energy Security, the sharp increase of oil prices last year had prompted a number of countries to go for the production of bio-energy crops as an alternative source of energy, and thus reducing the available cultivated land, while the world's population continued to grow day by day, increasing demand for more food. As a result, the combination of those realities underlines the importance for a comprehensive approach to tackle the problem of food crisis in our planet.*
13. *The challenge we are now confronting with is how to produce enough food to feed the growing world population, on the one hand, and how to respond to the increased need for clean energy to save the global environment and stop the advancing climate change, on the other hand. Therefore, the solution to this twin problem is to find a balanced approach between food crop and bio-energy culture, and develop other alternative energy sources, to meet the growing demand. We should avoid any short-term solution to energy problem which would have harmful consequences on food security worldwide.*
14. *Finally, Cambodia welcomes the outcome of the G8 meeting in L'Aquila, to mobilize US\$ 20 billion over the next three years for supporting agricultural production in poor countries. We hope that this commitment will be translated into concrete actions accordingly and timely.*

PEACE AND SECURITY:

15. *In parallel to all these most serious global challenges the world is*

facing with, there are still the political and security problems of great concern. Terrorism has been threatening everywhere causing deaths among the innocent people. To fight terrorism more effectively, we need greater and closer cooperation among the many authorities concerned in order to face with these criminal activities against humanity. On the other hand, there are countries that have the capacity to produce nuclear weapons which have not yet signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The dissemination of WMD constitutes another massive deadly menace to humanity. In this context, Cambodia highly values the call by US President Obama on September 23rd "... to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and seek the goal of a world without them." Cambodia also warmly welcomes the appeal by the UNSC Resolution 1887, adopted by UN Security Council Summit on September 24th, to secure a safer world for all.

16. In the ASEAN framework in Southeast Asia, we have the Treaty of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) which is an important instrument to keep Southeast Asia free of nuclear weapons to ensure peace and security in this part of the world. It is also a good confidence-building mechanism which needs to be adhered to by all, especially the nuclear weapon states. In recent years, ASEAN has actively encouraged the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to accede to SEANWFZ, but no concrete result or effect has been achieved yet. Here also, we would appeal to all Nuclear States to engage more constructively with the SEANWFZ Treaty.

REGIONAL ISSUES:

17. On the Korean Peninsula issue, we all are concerned with the rising tension in this part of the world, which can affect peace and security in the region. Cambodia urges all parties concerned to exercise utmost restraint and re-engage peaceful negotiations in the Six-Party Talks aimed at early denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. I think we should call upon the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea (DPRK) to keep in mind that the Six-Party Talks remain an appropriate forum to contribute to the settlement of the overall problem in the Korean Peninsula.

18. *While talking about threats to global peace and security, we should also keep an eye on the Middle East situation. The never ending cycle of violence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be broken. One of the most pressing issues there is to achieve a just, comprehensive and sustainable solution of the Palestine problem in accordance with the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Cambodia strongly urges all the parties involved to cease using military force and violence, in order to foster a peaceful and lasting settlement, by establishing a State of Palestine living side by side with the State of Israel in the spirit of peaceful coexistence and close cooperation between the two peoples.*

**Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

REFORM OF THE UN:

19. *Before I conclude, allow me to touch on in a few words on the issue of the U.N. reform. For many years now, almost all the delegations to the United Nations General Assembly have voiced their demand for a reform of the United Nations. But when it is time to do so, a conflict of interest arose. In my view, the reform of the United Nations should be in the interest of peace, security and development of the international community, and not just for a particular interest of a country. The reform, in my view, should also go beyond just the restructuring of the United Nations' organs, in order to enable this World Body to engage itself more actively to revitalizing the primary role of the UN in world affairs.*

Thank you.