

*Statement by  
His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong,  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia  
at the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly  
New York, 28 September 2010*

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*Mr. President, Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*1. At the outset, allow me to joint the previous distinguished speakers to express my sincere congratulations to His Excellency **Joseph Deiss** of Switzerland, on his election as president of the 65<sup>th</sup> session of our August General Assembly. I am confident that under his able leadership our Assembly will be crowned with significant progress on many global issues of international concern. Likewise, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to His Excellency Dr. **Ali Abdussalam Treki**, for the professionalism and dedication with which he conducted the previous session of our General Assembly.*

*2. This 65<sup>th</sup> Session is particularly significant, combining timely two important **high level meetings**, namely **The High-Level Meeting on MDGs** and **the High-Level Review of the Small Island Developing States on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy**. These important topics remind us that there is no better entity than the United Nations to address the global challenges; and multilateralism is relevant in addressing the world's inter-connected and proliferated challenges, ranging from global economic and financial crisis, climate change, food security, international peace and security, to regional conflicts and so forth.*

*Mr. President, Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*3. The global economic and financial storm seems to be over, but the task of restoring confidence and making economic recovery is far from complete and remains a daunting task, especially for the developing countries. The achievement of the MDGs is uncertain, due to the fragile economic recovery in these countries. The failure to meet the MDGs by 2015 means that millions of people will still be locked in the cycle of poverty. Therefore, as the economic recovery is happening, a joint effort for concrete actions is needed to further boost confidence and keep up the momentum of the global economic growth.*

*4. In Cambodia, we have adopted since 2003 our own MDGs, called **Cambodian MDGs (CMDGs)** which has achieved the MDGs target on reducing child mortality HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. According to the recent study made by the **Overseas Development Institute (ODI)** and the **UN Millennium Campaigns**. Cambodia was listed among 20 countries making the most absolute progress on MDGs.*

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*5. Our world today is facing most serious global challenges. Climate change presents a major challenge for every country, even though it is more severe for poor countries. We see daily, more and more headline news and reports on chaotic weather worldwide, with record heat and cold waves, unusual torrential rains leading to apocalyptic floods, landslides and mudslides, killing hundreds and displacing millions of people. Intense forest fires due to extreme heat indicate that Mother Nature is raging.*

*6. The confluence of these natural calamities means also that the agricultural sector, which largely depends on weather, has been mostly hit, resulting in adverse impacts on food security. All these happenings have aggravated poverty leading to more and more illegal immigration, which has already become a serious problem of human security.*

*7. The much-awaited COP15 Summit in Copenhagen last year, ever though failing to achieve a binding Agreement, had however laid down a good foundation for at least advancing international cooperation on a number of key issues such as, deforestation, renewable energy and financial support for the world's poorest countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We regret, however, that the pledges have not been actualized.*

*8. Hope to secure a binding agreement in Cancun this year is also still uncertain. The principles, especially the common but differentiated responsibilities for developed and developing nations, should serve as the foundation for negotiations. Such a principle is key to rebuilding mutual trust among nations, which is the most urgent task for any meaningful result to be achieved in the Cancun conference. *A compromised spirit is absolutely necessary for the sake of humanity.* Climate change has already reached a point of non return.*

*9. Cambodia urges developed countries to honor their commitment to provide financial and technological aid to developing nations in the fight against climate change, and take the lead to cut their respective carbon dioxide emission so that the conference in Cancun could produce tangible results. The fruitful outcomes in Cancun rely on efforts by all to save humankind from much more serious catastrophes. It is not a vital problem of one country or one region, but that of the whole world.*

*10. Cambodia is pleased to join the group of countries for the implementation of the Copenhagen Accord. We have launched our own initiative called Cambodian Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) which focuses on capacity building and strengthening national institutions. Cambodia has also steadily implemented its projects within the Framework of Reduction Emission from Deforestation (REED) and will continue to share its responsibility in curbing emission of carbon dioxide and to bring about adaptation and mitigations measures.*

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*11. Cambodia believes that the problem of food security, also deserves our great attention. At the FAO's World Summit on Food Security in November 2009, it was disclosed that the number of hungry people has reached 1 billion. This number will certainly increase day by day with the augmentation of the world population, thus further aggravating food security in the world, particularly in the poorest countries.*

*12. The lack of financial resources devoted to agriculture, the lack of access to agrotechnologies, the irrational use of water resources .etc... are among the catalysts of food security. On the other hand, as a result of the recent high fuel oil prices, agricultural land has been diverted to grow bio-energy crops to meet increasing demand for fuel, while the world population needs more and more food. Furthermore, the Official Development Assistance (ODA) has not been sufficiently focused on agricultural production.*

*13. Therefore, Cambodia hopes that the international community would turn their attention to redirect and increase ODA to emphasize on food production. At the same time, adequate and timely measures must be taken to address the various constraints to food security, in order to avoid recurrence of food crisis in the future.*

*14. In this context, the 20 billion US\$ pledged for 3 years made by the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, in 2009, to support agricultural production in poor countries was extremely opportune and offered much hope, not only for solving food shortage, but also for the MDGs' realization and poverty reduction. However, the respect of commitment, the timely disbursement and efficient utilization of this funding are of utmost imperative.*

*15. As for Cambodia, food production is the top agenda of our Government policy and agriculture and irrigation are being aggressively considered as a springboard for broader economic development with the ambition to turn Cambodia into a **more important** rice-exporting country.*

*Mr. President,*

*16. Peace and security remains an issue of grave concern in many parts of the world. Terrorism remains a very serious threat to the world, killing every day innocent peoples in many parts of the world. The regional security landscape in Asia and the Middle East is still very tense, compelling us to be ever vigilante.*

*17. The situation in the Korean Peninsula still presents a threat to peace and security in this part of the world. Cambodia earnestly calls the parties to refrain from any act that could escalate tension in the region in order to contribute to a favorable condition for the Six-Party Talks to resume as soon as possible. Peace shall prevail above all through negotiations in order to regain confidence to build a peaceful Korean Peninsular.*

*18. The Palestinian-Israeli issue remains one of the longest and explosive running conflicts in the Middle East. Year after year, the Palestinian people are denied of their right to establish a Palestine State living side by side in peace with the people of Israel. Year after year, our august Forum urges the parties concerned to comply with the United Nations Security Council*

*resolutions, while the whole world is waiting impatiently for a peace agreement between Palestine and Israel.*

*Cambodia urges both parties to act with utmost restraint and to stop any act of provocation in order to pave the way for a peaceful solution.*

*Cambodia, warmly welcomes the recent direct peace talks between the Israeli Prime Minister and the Palestinian President in Washington and in Egypt, as a step in the right direction for bolstering an atmosphere of trust between the two sides. Cambodia shares the view of the international community that new settlement in the West Bank presents the main obstacle to the efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict.*

*Cambodia urges both sides to look for a compromise on this crucial issue in order to achieve a breakthrough of the disputes.*

**19.** *Concerning the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, Cambodia firmly supports the Resolutions of our August Assembly on the necessity of ending this embargo and calls upon all members of the United Nations to implement those resolutions in order to end the prolonged suffering of the innocent people of Cuba.*

***Mr. President,***

**20.** *Given the most serious emerging global challenges, the United Nation must be ready to fulfill its growing responsibilities to tackle these complex issues of the world. The functioning of every organ of the United Nations should be readjusted and reinvigorated to effectively manage the complexity of the world today and overcome all the challenges in order to build a suitable world for all. On the reform of the United Nations Security Council, Cambodia is of the view that priority should be given to increasing the representation of developing countries which comprise a vast majority of the UN memberships. Everyone raised this matter of reform since many years, but unfortunately, particular interests have prevailed over the world's concern and impeded the reform from taking place.*

***Thank you.***

