



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 66th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly*

New York, 26 September 2011

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

- 1. At the outset, I would like to join the previous distinguished speakers to express my sincere congratulations to His Excellency Nassir bin Abdulaziz Al-Nasser on his election as the President of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. We are confident that with his able leadership, our deliberations will be guided towards a successful conclusion.*

- 2. I would like also to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon for being unanimously chosen by the General Assembly to serve a second term. The Royal Government of Cambodia acknowledges with great admiration his outstanding leadership and untiring efforts to overcome many current global challenges.*

- 3. Cambodia welcomes warmly the Republic of South Sudan as a new member of the United Nations. We will continue to dispatch more peacekeepers under*

the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations to help humanitarian activities in demining in this friendly new State.

-Mr. President,

4. *We live in an interconnected world where global challenges such as economic and financial crisis, climate change, energy and food security, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) etc... are increasingly complex and continue to haunt the whole world.*

Global Economic and Financial Governance

5. *The global economy remains somewhat fragile, and there are many risks and challenges to a durable exit from the crisis. The growth of the world economy has decelerated in 2011, as the global economy is now facing three major challenges: sovereign debt, slow growth, and social instability. The problem of unemployment has been very severe in advanced economies and inflation is emerging in the developing economies. This has created havoc in many parts of the world, as continued instability in the financial sector, especially in the US and the Euro zone has dampened global trade with flow-on effect on export, in particular that of developing countries. Therefore a wide range of policy responses and long-overdue reforms must be implemented to accelerate growth and bring the global economy out of the crisis.*

6. *The crisis has reaffirmed the importance of global economic and financial governance reform, including strengthening the institutional role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).*
7. *Asia has become an essential partner in the global economy and has taken the lead in advancing global recovery. Cambodia's economy, for instance, is growing after a decline in 2008 and 2009 with an expected growth of 8.7% this year. With strong, robust economies, East Asia and ASEAN are well positioned to assume their responsibilities to contribute to addressing the global economic and financial crisis.*

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

8. *Although some significant success have been achieved in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), most developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) will continue to face many huge hurdles on their path to reach the MDGs targets.*
9. *Continued economic and financial instability in the developed world has exacerbated uncertainty in funding for development projects in poor countries. Persistently high fuel oil price is straining every economic aspect of developing countries. Worsening food security situation is holding back progress in reducing malnutrition and child mortality. Furthermore, the burden of debt repayment constitutes another major challenge for the LDCs to meet the MDGs targets. Facing these*

tremendous challenges, poverty reduction remains the highest and foremost priority of the world, which requires steady economic growth and a more pro-poor policy.

10. *In the context of the global effort to meet the Millennium Development Goals, Cambodia has been listed among 20 countries making the most absolute progress on MDGs, and was accorded, last year, the “MDG Award 2010” by the MDG Award Committee in New York, for its outstanding progress towards achievement of the MDG goal 6.*

Climate Change

11. *Climate change is no doubt becoming a constant threat to our existence with its devastating impact worldwide. Drought and flooding have become more frequent and more severe in many parts of the world, affecting millions of people. The current horrific drought at the horn of Africa represents another most painful tragedy caused by global warming. The threat of Climate change is a reality and it is a huge challenge for the global community.*
12. *It is regrettable that much of the promises pledged during the Copenhagen and Cancun Meetings of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to assist the developing countries to cope with climate change remains to be delivered timely. Now, while the world is facing another financial turmoil, let us not forget that actions on climate change cannot wait. Climate change is progressing every day,*

triggering more and more frequent natural disasters. The developing countries are hoping for timely support for their efforts to address adaptation and mitigation and to develop clean energy and call the developed world to honor their commitment under the Copenhagen and Cancun conferences.

13. *The coming United Nations Climate Change Conference COP17, in Durban - South Africa in November, shall not be another delusion but the place to demonstrate our true collective willingness to share the responsibility and to achieve a real breakthrough to face climate change. While facing obstacles in achieving a binding accord, Cambodia hopes that the Kyoto Protocol, which is due to expire next year, will be extended during the DURBAN Conference.*

14. *Cambodia for its part has successfully launched its own initiative called "Cambodia Climate Change Alliance" (CCCA) since 2009 with the objective to strengthen our national institutions for climate change risk. Cambodia is also implementing numerous projects within the framework of "The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries" (UN-REDD) while actively promoting adaptation and mitigations measures through the project "Promoting Climate Resilient-Water Management and Agricultural Practices in Rural Cambodia".*

Food and Energy Security

15. *Food and energy security are still major issues of global concern. Although the recent surge in energy cost has subsided, the prices of fuel oil remain extremely volatile. High fuel oil prices present a major burden on poor countries which lack financial resources as well as knowhow to develop alternative and clean sources of energy. As the world depends heavily on fuel oil, we should act in concert to prevent unruly speculation and price instability which have a devastating effect on developing countries, where efforts to reduce poverty and meet the MDGs targets. May be it is time to consider establishing a world body comprising of major producers and consumers of fuel oil to ensure a reasonable price limit. The world should not be at the mercy of oil speculation.*
16. *A more holistic approach for addressing energy security is the transfer of relevant knowledge and technology to assist developing countries in exploiting alternative sources of energy. Reducing reliance on fossil fuel will also contribute significantly to slowing down the pace of global warming and climate change as it reduces emission of harmful greenhouse gases produced by the burning of fossil fuel.*
17. *Energy security, on the other hand, is closely linked with food security. The soaring of fuel oil prices in recent years has not only caused rising food prices, but also reduced agricultural land for the*

production of bio-energy as an alternative to fossil fuel. A balanced approach should be taken to address this twin problem. Food insecurity is also caused and aggravated by the global financial and economic meltdown and increasing world population.

18. *The number of undernourished people in the world is still unacceptably high. The growth of global population will inevitably lead to increasing demand on both energy and food.*
19. *For its part, Cambodia is doing its best to contribute to the world food security, by intensifying rice production as the top priority of the government's policy. More and more rice paddy are available for export. Cambodia is also seeking to establish an Association of Rice Exporters in the ACMECS framework, comprising of five rice-exporting countries in Southeast Asia - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The Association aims to contribute to stabilizing the food market and prevent speculation of food prices.*

La Paix et la Sécurité dans le monde

Le terrorisme

20. *Une des plus graves menaces actuelles contre l'humanité est le terrorisme. Malgré d'énormes efforts de la part de la communauté internationale pour prévenir et combattre les actes du terrorisme,*

ces derniers continuent toujours d'agir un peu partout dans le monde. Aucun pays n'est épargné par le terrorisme. Ses réseaux comprennent un vaste et complexe réseau d'activités criminelles, combinant blanchiment d'argent, trafic d'armes et autres crimes organisés, qui sont tous liés les uns aux autres. Aussi est-il temps pour nous de réfléchir pour savoir si les mesures adoptées jusqu'à présent pour combattre le terrorisme sont suffisantes.

21. *C'est pour cela que le Cambodge soutient entièrement les efforts des Nations Unies pour forger une coalition globale contre le terrorisme. C'est dans ce contexte que le Cambodge estime qu'il y a un besoin urgent de finaliser le projet de « Convention Globale des Nations Unies sur le Terrorisme », qui a été discuté devant cette organisation depuis longtemps. L'adoption de cette Convention renforcerait et élargirait les cadres légaux pour combattre ce crime contre l'humanité.*

Les armes de destruction massive

22. *Les progrès réalisés ces dernières années par la communauté internationale dans le domaine du contrôle des armes et du désarmement ont été notables. Le Cambodge se félicite du nouveau « Traité Stratégique de la Réduction des Armes », signé l'an dernier par les Etats-Unis et la Russie, qui marque une importante contribution vers la*

suppression des armes de destruction massive. Cependant, les réserves d'armes nucléaires existant dans le monde actuel constituent toujours une menace sérieuse pour l'humanité.

23. Le Cambodge demande aux États qui n'ont pas encore signé le Traité d'Interdiction Complète des Essais Nucléaire et le Traité de Non-prolifération Nucléaire à le faire le plus tôt possible, car nous avons tous la responsabilité d'assurer un monde plus sûr pour tous.

24. C'est dans cet esprit qu'en Asie du Sud-est, l'Association des Nations d'Asie du Sud-est (ASEAN) a signé le 15 décembre 1995 à Bangkok le Traité sur une « Asie du Sud-est sans armes nucléaires » (SEANWFZ). L'ASEAN a négocié avec les puissances nucléaires afin que ces pays adhèrent au Traité SEANWFZ.

L'ASEAN salue la disponibilité de la Chine à signer le Protocole d'adhésion à ce Traité. Nous espérons que d'autres puissances nucléaires fassent de même.

Le conflit israélo-palestinien

25. Le conflit israélo-palestinien reste un des conflits le plus long et le plus explosif au Moyen Orient. Le Cambodge demande aux deux parties de manifester une volonté politique de surmonter l'animosité les uns envers les autres afin de créer une atmosphère favorable à la reprise des

négociations de paix dans l'intérêt des deux peuples palestiniens et israéliens.

26. *Le Cambodge a toujours soutenu la création de l'État Palestine sur la base de ses frontières de 1967. C'est dans cet esprit que le Cambodge soutient, lors de cette Assemblée Générale, les droits de la Palestine à devenir membre de plein droit de l'ONU.*

Il faut d'ailleurs reconnaître que ni la Palestine, ni Israël ne peuvent vivre ailleurs. Il serait donc beaucoup mieux que les deux peuples puissent vivre l'un à côté de l'autre pacifiquement et en bon voisinage. Le Cambodge ne voit pas d'autres solutions à cela.

Sanction contre Cuba

27. *L'embargo contre Cuba dure depuis trop longtemps et est aujourd'hui dépassé. C'est une injustice terrible contre le peuple cubain qui est le premier à souffrir. C'est pourquoi le Cambodge renouvelle aujourd'hui encore son appel à la levée de cet embargo qui n'apporte que des souffrances au peuple cubain. Il est maintenant temps de lever la sanction et de mettre fin à cette longue épreuve subie par le peuple cubain.*

La réforme de l'ONU

28. *Face aux changements dans le monde aujourd'hui avec ses multiples défis, les principaux organes des*

Nations Unies doivent être réformés pour faire face aux problèmes qui se posent au monde actuel. Le Cambodge estime que la réforme doit être globale.

Si un consensus sur la réforme du Conseil de Sécurité ne pouvait aboutir aujourd'hui, peut-être nous devons procéder par celle de l'Assemblée Générale pour donner plus de pouvoir à cet organe afin qu'il puisse jouer un rôle plus important face aux grands défis de notre temps, en tant qu'organe hautement représentatif et démocratique de l'ONU.

Pour ce qui concerne le Conseil de sécurité, la réforme doit s'assurer qu'il reflète les réalités du monde d'aujourd'hui avec une représentation équitable entre les membres permanents et les membres non permanents.

Merci de votre attention.