

**STATEMENT**  
**by**  
**Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment, Royal Government of Cambodia**  
**At the First Session of the United Nation Environment Assembly Meeting,**  
**Nairobi, Kenya, 23-27 June 2014**

**Interactive Dialogue on SGDs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

*Mr. President of UNEA,  
Honorable delegates  
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,*

Today, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I have a great honor and pleasure to address the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya. It is indeed the historic assembly of world environmental leaders who have come together in solidarity to address the issues of global environment and other associated challenges towards achieving sustainable development.

More than two decades since the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, we have learned a lot about "Sustainable Development". We have sufficient knowledge, technology and financial resources to make a greater progress in sustainable development. However, our action appears to be inconsistent with knowledge and urgent need for sustainable development. Therefore, for the sake of our home plant, it is time for us to realize our specific and concrete actions within the path of sustainable development by placing environment issues at the top of national and international agendas and putting consideration of environmental sustainability in both social and economic development.

**Mr. President!**

Depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation coupled with impact of climate change will seriously constrain future economic development worldwide. Therefore, we have to admit the real price of our environment degradation for pursuing such a rush development pattern. To counter these threats and risks, we need to forge a stronger international cooperation and solidarity for addressing these global environmental issues and challenges.

In this context, the Royal Government of Cambodia considers poverty reduction based on principles of holistic growth as a key priority for sustainable development. This means a growth, which is multi-sectoral, with pro-poor, gender sensitive, broad-based, inclusive, and environmentally sounds.

"Our Environment, Our Life" is a vision for Cambodia. For this vision, we are making greater efforts in ensuring environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and proper use of our natural resources for both social and economic development - aiming at achieving sustainable development.

Cambodia is committed to achieve our twin objectives of economic and social development with green growth, with due consideration of sustainable consumption and production, which is a key principle for a sustainable environment. We are making steady progress towards these goals - recycling rates are increasing, more people are using energy-efficient appliances, and I think there is greater consciousness of green concept.

### **Mr. President!**

Globally, significant progress has been made in recent decades in addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation, land degradation, ozone layer depletion, and pollution caused by persistent organic pollutants, including mercury. However, more needs to be done to stabilise and subsequently reverse the trends of global environmental degradation. I therefore would like to highlight some key issues and recommendations as follows:

- There is a lack of effective mechanisms to deal with trans-boundary issues such as illegal timber and wildlife trade, air pollution, climate change, etc. Therefore, a more comprehensive approach is needed for tackling these issues covering the whole supply-demand chain
- Transfer of technology and knowhow to least developed and developing countries should be promoted in order to allow them to leapfrog the fossil fuel-based economy
- Proper costing of environmental externalities needs to be put in place for carbon price, ecosystem services, etc.
- Public-private partnership needs to be further promoted in order to stimulate innovation, to unlock resources (fund, technology, know-how, etc.) and to support environmentally friendly development
- Fairer benefit sharing for utilisation of biodiversity resources needs to be determined and realized
- Developed countries need to honor their commitment to provide 0.7% of their GDP for ODA for developing countries which is in line with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's message to this UNEA, '...wealthy nations should bear the burden of repairing historic environmental ills,...'.
- We need a stronger UN environmental body to deal with global environmental challenges
- International community needs to work together to mitigate the many national and regional conflicts that will directly affect poverty alleviation and sustainable development efforts, as well as environment.

In this respect, we would be pleased if the above could be taken into consideration for the finalization and operationalization of SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We seek for closer cooperation and more support so as to enable us to take more concrete action for the betterment of our country and people and generations to come. Cambodia is determined and committed to join hand with International Community in pursuing sustainable development "Towards A Life of Dignity for All" and to meet the Rio+20's resolution (66/288): 'The Future we want'.

Thank you very much!