



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Thavrak TUON

Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning
Royal Government of Cambodia

at the

47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

New York, 7-11 April 2014

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Heads of Delegations of the Member States,
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

The Delegation of the Royal Government of Cambodia would like to thank the Secretary-General for tabling the three reports which will form the basis for discussions at this historic event, the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). The Cambodian Delegation considers this Session of the CPD as an opportunity to share our national achievements since we recovered in 1993 from years of instability and civil strife. We have made considerable progress since affirming our commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action, especially in the area of maternal mortality reduction, fertility decline, gender equality and containment of the spread of HIV. However, this Session also provides an opportunity to confirm the advancement of our efforts to improve the lives of our people with equity and dignity in the years to come and to ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

We wish to thank the UN System which, through the leadership of the UNFPA worked closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia on a review process through a global survey and a series of consultations and reviews in the Asia Pacific Region. It also supported national consultations, including those with the civil society, to produce a “Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the ICPD beyond 2014”. We endorse the operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action which was based on the use of data of the highest-quality and their analysis. We also welcome the fact that the Country Specific Report of the Royal Government of Cambodia on the status and progress of the ICPD implementation is recognized as being consistent with the GA Resolution 65/234 on the follow up to the implementation of the Programme of Action beyond 2014.

In this Country Specific Report, we have shown that Cambodia has made considerable progress in adopting and implementing national development policies and key sectorial strategies to achieve better development results, focusing on the following aspects:

- (i) strengthening of human capital, guided by human rights standards and principles;
- (ii) strengthening efforts to improve gender equality, equity and women’s empowerment;
- (iii) addressing the issues of adolescent reproductive health;
- (iv) forging new partnerships with the civil society and the private sector; and
- (v) promoting integration of population dynamics and population trends into development planning and policymaking.

Consequent upon substantial declines in fertility and mortality, Cambodia is going through a phase of rapid demographic transition. This has opened up a demographic window of opportunity characterized by a declining dependency ratio. The size of the labour force is expanding with the entry of a large number of working age youth. This, backed up by appropriate policies in all sectors, has a great potential to provide the country with a large demographic dividend through further economic development. Recognizing the impacts of population dynamics, reproductive health and gender on poverty, the Royal Government of Cambodia will strive further to improve the standard of living of its people. It will continue to reinforce the integration of the population and development agenda in a broad-based process of overall development. The next five-year National Strategic Development Plan

will be formulated to respond to new challenges pertaining to population and development and the changing development environment, focusing on the following priorities:

- (i) increasing national wealth distribution and reducing income inequalities;
- (ii) Further strengthening institutional capacity and governance, at both national and sub-national levels, and ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of public services to better serve people;
- (iii) building a strong human capital in the country, especially for young people;
- (iv) strengthening the health system in both rural and urban areas;
- (v) addressing unfulfilled gender equality and empowerment of women; and
- (vi) addressing the inequalities in universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, especially for women and young people; and

We, therefore, welcome the report of the Secretary General and we are happy to note that it addresses in a comprehensive manner, ways to enhance individual capabilities and resilience and ensure sustainable development for the Cambodian people. We agree with the conclusion of the report that investing in human capital across the multiple segments of the ICPD and recognizing individual human rights and choices provide the foundations for sustainable development of a country.

To conclude, our delegation looks forward to participating in the negotiations on the draft resolution to be presented by the Chairman of the Commission. We are pleased to restate in the 47th CPD, our support for further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, already expressed in the 6th Asia Pacific Population Conference and would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. The Royal Government of Cambodia supports a continuous and more effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the coming years. Recognizing the importance of the outcome of this Commission and the Post 2015 Development agenda, our delegation further encourages all member states to not only recognize the overall progress in the Programme of Action made so far, but also to endorse the need for its further implementation for the bright future of the next generations.

Thank you for your attention.