

## Remarks

by

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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

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- *Mr./Madam Chair;*
- *Her Excellency Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, UN Under-Secretary-General and ESCAP Executive Secretary;*
- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

### Introduction

It is my pleasure and honor to address you today on Cambodia's experience and commitment in "**Accelerating climate action in Cambodia and beyond for sustainable development**", which is the theme for the seventy-ninth session of the Commission this year.

There is no doubt that climate change is the defining issue of our time. Again and again, we see the devastating effects of heat-trapping greenhouse gases on our planet and people, especially across Asia and the Pacific. In just the past 12 months, there have been historically devastating floods in Pakistan, extreme drought in the People's Republic of China, and intense typhoons in the Philippines. These disasters, and others like them, have impacted hundreds of millions of vulnerable people. Our children and their offspring's lives are under the threat of suffering from the impact of the climate crisis long after our time. Their lives and livelihoods will irreversibly change.

Cambodia, too, is no stranger to the ill effects of climate change and remains one of the most climate-vulnerable nations in the world. From uneven rainfall that affects rice yields, to extreme temperatures that hamper worker productivity, to flooding and drought that overwhelm infrastructure, climate change is impacting Cambodia's economic and social development. This was the case just a few months ago when flooding across the country led to a tragic loss of lives and the displacement of thousands of people, while also damaging and destroying infrastructure.

### ***Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!***

#### **Cambodia's commitment to net zero emission**

Despite the challenges we face, Cambodia is committed to taking bold steps to address climate change and promote sustainable development. We have set ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of renewable energy sources, and promote sustainable and resilient urbanization.

First, at the global level, Cambodia is among the very first members of the Least Developed Country group to submit the country's "Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (LTS4CN)" (to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on December 30, 2021).

This is a highly significant step for a developing country like Cambodia, reflecting our national commitment multilateral action on climate change. As announced by **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, during the 2020 United Nations Climate Ambition Summit, this is yet another

testament to our consistent, strong commitment and political will to address climate change.

At the national level, Cambodia has developed its National Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. The NDC includes targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 27% by 2030, relative to a business-as-usual scenario. These targets are ambitious, but achievable with strong commitment and action from all stakeholders.

In addition to our national commitment, Cambodia is also taking action at the sub-national level. We have established Climate Change Technical Working Groups in every province and municipality across the country. These groups are responsible for identifying and implementing climate adaptation and mitigation measures, such as reforestation, sustainable urbanization, and water resource management.

Cambodia is also working towards building a climate-resilient economy. We have developed a National Adaptation Plan to guide our efforts in promoting climate resilience across all sectors of the economy. We are improving our agricultural techniques, expanding our transportation infrastructure, and promoting sustainable tourism practices.

### ***Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!***

#### **Cambodia's transition toward a clean and renewable energy**

Cambodia is also investing in renewable energy sources to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. We have set a target of increasing the share of renewable energy to 70% by 2050. This will not only help us to reduce our carbon footprint, but also to increase access to electricity in rural areas.

One of the major successes in the promotion of clean and renewable energy in Cambodia has been the development of solar power microgrids. These small-scale systems, which are often operated by local communities, provide a reliable and sustainable source of electricity to rural areas that are not connected to the national grid. These microgrids have been particularly effective in improving access to electricity for remote households, schools and health clinics.

In addition, Cambodia has made significant progress in increasing the share of hydropower energy in its overall energy mix. Hydropower currently accounts for over 40% of the country's total electricity generation, and several new hydroelectric dams are under construction or planned for the near future.

In conclusion, Cambodia is committed to accelerating climate action for sustainable development. We recognize the urgent need to address climate change and its impacts on our people and our economy. We invite our partners and stakeholders from around the world to join us in our efforts to build a more sustainable and resilient future for all. Thank you.

***Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!***

**Our gratitude and appreciation to ESCAP for MA support**

I am taking this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the special support received from ESCAP. Yesterday, we co-hosted with ESCAP a side event: De-mining for Sustainable Development.

As you may know, Cambodia is a country that has long suffered from both internal and regional conflicts which has resulted in millions of landmines and explosive remnants of war littered indiscriminately

throughout the country. Although efforts to mitigate these risks have taken place for over 30 years, there is still work to be done.

As stipulated in the Cambodia National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS 2018-2025), Cambodia is aiming toward a “Landmine free by 2025” and addressing the problems of residual threats in the country. To support this ambitious vision, Cambodia needs a national policy that will serve as a guidance to effectively implement this particular NMAS.

I am honored and grateful that ESCAP has extended its funding support to develop this national policy. The policy will aim to assist Cambodia through Cambodian Mine Action and Victims Assistance Authority (CMAA) in order to seek and obtain the necessary resources and sectoral support, enhancing coordination with all stakeholders, and providing direction towards development of innovative initiatives on mine action. More importantly, the policy will help embed mine action into Cambodia's broader sustainable development agenda. Thank you for your support!

***Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!***

Closing

Finally, may I conclude by expressing my strong hope for a strengthened multilateralism with the United Nations at the core to galvanize international solidarity for the global community to succeed in accelerating climate action for sustainable development, advancing peace, and shared prosperity for all.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**