



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Thavrak TUON

**Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning,
Royal Government of Cambodia**

at the

Special Session on ICPD

New York

22nd September 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 scheduling this special session on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Cambodian Delegation considers this Special Session of the General Assembly 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. Availing ourselves of this opportunity, the Cambodian Delegation would like to confirm our resolve and will redouble 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 inclusive 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 recognised 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:

1. strengthening of human capital, guided by human rights standards and principles;
2. strengthening efforts to improve gender equality, equity and women's empowerment;
3. addressing the issues of adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights;
4. forging new partnerships with the civil society and the private sector; and
5. 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 inclusive development through the implementation of the new five-year National Strategic Development Plan formulated to respond to new challenges pertaining to population and development and the changing development environment.

We note that in spite of the progress made towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals, considerable gaps still exist in the implementation of different areas of the Programme of Action. While recognising the importance of protecting the present achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development, which we confirmed in the Cambodia Country Specific Progress report, we would also need to respond to new challenges relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment. We would therefore like to reaffirm our commitment at the highest political level to achieving the goals and the objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and development. To achieve these objectives, we recognise the need for a stronger partnership which is absolutely vital and, would accordingly call upon member states to recognize that the Programme of Action requires adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels for its implementation, as well as new and additional resources for countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources. This is absolutely essential for the indispensable human resource development required for the full implementation of the Programme of Action, which includes training, the exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity development, which entails strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities.

To conclude, our delegation would like to thank the Chairman for giving us the opportunity to make a statement at this session. The Royal Government of Cambodia supports a continuous and more effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the coming years. Recognising the importance of the Special Session in the General Assembly and the Post 2015 Development agenda, our delegation further encourages all member states to not only recognise 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.

