



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

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**Statement**

**of**

**H.E. Mrs. Sorey Chan**  
**Vice-Minister, Ministry of Women's Affairs**

**at**

**the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status on Women**

**New York**  
**24 February 22 2011**



Madam Chairperson  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to take part in the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and to present the statement on behalf of the Cambodian Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) continues to actively support the mission of the CSW and those strategic areas identified in the Beijing Platform for Action; the targets set by the CEDAW and Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs).

In Cambodia, gender equality has been improving progressively. Cambodian women are recognized as the backbone of economic and social development as stated frequently by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has been working together with non-governmental and civil society organizations to fight poverty and to rebuild the Cambodian society. The poverty level has now declined due to significant economic growth and remarkable macroeconomic stability.

The Government has also provided scholarships, additional training programs, accommodation and safe transportation to the female students. This has greatly enhanced female student admissions to primary schools. Consequently, the dropout rate for female students decreased from 23.5% to 22.3%, while the literacy rate for women aged over 15 years increased from 60.3% to 66.1%. Every effort has been made to reduce the gender gap in the education sector.

The overall access to primary and reproductive health has improved, moreover, maternal and children's health care is a priority in the health sector.

The provision by the RGC of small and medium loans to women and to communities has steadfastly increased. Moreover, women are being equipped with leadership skills so that they have the capacity to participate in decision-making at all levels of governance.



The Government is implementing the law on “Prevention of domestic violence and victim protection” and the law on “Anti- Human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation” and will effectively enforce them in collaboration with all relevant institutions and development partners.

Furthermore, the capacity of women to contribute to and benefit from national economic growth and poverty reduction is being strengthened progressively.

The Royal Government will continue to implement its policies aiming at:

- Increasing women’s participation in decision- making at all levels
- Strengthening the legislative framework on violence against women.
- Improving girl’s access to education and training in modern technical skills as well as in leadership.
- Providing more budgets for school development and access to sustainable micro-finance.
- Building health service Centers especially for women to deal with the problem of maternal mortality.

Despite these achievements, women still face many challenges, such as their lack of education and business skills. In the outside world, there exist the lack of infrastructure, traditional attitudes and cultural biases, difficulty of access to markets and the longer-term financing that would not able their businesses to expand and flourish.

All of these challenges limit women-owned businesses from achieving their full potential. These are the main reasons why businesses run by the women tend to be small and informal.

In closing I would like to say that the RGC looks forward to continuing its productive cooperation with the UN and its Member States for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Thank you for your kind attention.