



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA



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**Statement
by**

**H.E. Mr. Nay Meng Eng
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations**

at

the Third Committee

at the Sixty-Sixth Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

on Agenda Item 28:

Advancement of Women

New York, 11 October 2011

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations
327 East, 58th Street, New York, NY. 10022 Phone: (212) 336 0777 Fax: (212) 759 7672**

Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time I am taking the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Third Committee for the 66th Session of General Assembly, and to congratulate also other members of the Bureau and to commit Cambodia's full support and cooperation during this session.

I would also like to associate myself with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of G-77 and China and the statement made by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN on Agenda item 28 relating to the advancement of women.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize that gender issue cannot be solved separately as it is closely linked to poverty. Therefore, development is the key element to improve the wellbeing of women and their families. Women's rights are human rights only by such a fundamental restructuring of society and its institutions could women be fully empowered to take their rightful place as equal partners with men in all aspects of life.

Various conventions and laws provide comprehensive mandates to ensure gender equality which is the foundation to the advancement in women in any given society. In this regard, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Actions adopted by the 4th UN Conference on Women sixteen years ago remains the policy framework for the realization of gender equality.

Today the importance of women in the society is being increasingly recognized and cannot be denied. Women certainly have a very important role in a new liberal economic system. Progress is being made by some countries to give women more economic and political power, increasing women's leadership and participation.

Mr. Chairman,

Eliminating violence and discrimination against women are the strategies to address women's challenges, to support women's enhancement programs and to encourage them to participate in socio-economic activities for the development.

Cambodia indeed fully acknowledges women's capability, skills and potentials that can be used as important input in socio-economic development, as we have always stated that "women are the backbone of the economy and society". The government always pays attention to increase participation ratio of women, at maximum possible, in all levels of national agencies from central to local ones. Their jobs range from political positions, judicial positions to private sector.

Cambodia has adopted "the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Victim Protection," "the Law on Anti-Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation" and "Criminal Code" and other appropriate strategies, including a number of coordinating measures to protect women and ensure them justice.

In coordination with the United Nations system, including UN Women, the Cambodian government's five year plan of development, known as Rectangular Strategy, is in full swing to promote gender equality and improve the status of women focusing on education, health, economic empowerment, legal protection, and engaging women in decision-making affairs.

Mr. Chairman,

All of us need to understand that discrimination against women, violence against women and children, and woman and child trafficking are not only a problem of a woman, a problem of a family or a community, but also a tragedy of the whole national socio-economy and as a global issue.

Indeed, many countries had made efforts to ensure equity between men and women, to have same salary for same job, to ensure maternal leave, to have right to basic education, to prevent labor exploitation on women, and to consider violence as the crime to be charged under law.

Along with this, Cambodia has prepared and expanded Millennium Development Goals to mirror a national specific context aiming to eliminate violence and discrimination against women. Through this, Cambodia has embedded the reduction of violence on women as an indicator into national development plan and paid strongly attention to the advancement of women.

Moreover, the Royal Government of Cambodia is determined to at best effort to enable woman, especially support-less women living in rural area to receive

health care, to send children to schools and to have proper living condition and just legal protection from trafficking, rape and all other forms of violence.

Mr. Chairman,

To implement the enhancement of value and role of women, to prevent the women from all forms of discrimination and violence we must strengthen and expand partnership with international institutions, development partners, civil society and private sector for providing support in the campaign on the areas of gender equity, enhancement of women's ownership and social welfare.

To reach these goals the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, need international cooperation and global partnership in fulfillment of commitments on official development assistance, market access, technical and financial support and capacity building in order to help addressing the challenges women are facing as well as encouraging them to participate in socio-economic development.

I thank you

