



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

Statement
By His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni

Leader Event of the United Nations Climate Change Conference
30 November 2015



1. Mr. President of the French Republic,
2. Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
3. Heads of State and Heads of Government,
4. Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I wish to express my sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris and to the people of France in these difficult moments. I wish to assure you, Mr President, that Cambodia firmly supports France in its fight against those who commit these barbaric crimes.

Mr. President, Heads of State and Heads of Government, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time and we have started to experience its effects over the past few years. The main aspects of human development, such as agriculture, food security, access to water, health, migrations and poverty face major threats from climate change. The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals recently adopted by the UN General Assembly could also be affected.

In Cambodia, as we speak, farmers are struggling with changing seasonal rainfall patterns and prolonged drought periods, which affect agricultural production and food security. The frequency and intensity of natural disasters has consistently increased. The 2013 floods in Cambodia have cost my country 2% of

GDP, affected almost 380,000 households in 20 of our 25 provinces and claimed 168 lives – the majority of which were children.

As the representative of a developing country, I strongly hope that the principle of fairness will be at the heart of negotiations in the coming two weeks. Cambodia, like many others in this room, is at a critical phase of its development. We need to simultaneously address poverty, grow our economy, develop our industries, upgrade the quality of our human resources and social services, secure our energy supply, and remain competitive in an open regional and global environment. In the context of this agenda of reforms, Cambodia has adopted clear objectives for the fight against climate change, which are spelled out in our Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC).

A growing portion of our public resources is already being spent for the climate change response. This demonstrates a strong level of commitment, despite Cambodia's very small share in GHG emissions to date. But we cannot achieve these ambitious objectives alone.

Financial resources and transfers of technologies are required for developing countries to fully play their role in the climate change response, and I hope the Paris agreement will include strong commitments on these issues. The initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund is an encouraging sign.

This momentum should be maintained and increased over the next few days, and extended to other instruments such as the Least Developed Countries Fund. Adequate mechanisms will also be essential to stimulate research and private investments in research and renewable energy, energy efficiency, forest protection, resilient infrastructure and adaptation technologies.

Mr. President, Heads of State and Heads of Government, Ladies and Gentlemen,

These climate negotiations have been a long process, spanning over twenty years. During these years, we have gathered strong evidence of climate change and its links with human activities. We have also witnessed the first impacts of climate change, and popular support for a coordinated and efficient response has been growing, all over the world. Most of the countries present here have made pledges. But we know that this will not be enough. These initial contributions will not maintain global warming below the threshold of 2°C. Breaking this deadlock is our responsibility as leaders. But we have the evidence, we have the solutions, and we know it is possible to simultaneously address climate change and put our societies on a sustainable development path. So we cannot and we should not pass the buck further. The decisions are here, today, for us to make.

Climate Change is a crucial element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and our meeting here in Paris must lead to a historical agreement on the reduction of emissions of Green House Gases by developed and industrialized countries, including voluntary commitments from least developed countries and mechanisms for financial assistance and technology transfers.

Let us deliver today the bold leadership that our people and future generations legitimately expect.

Thank you.