



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**Nation Religion King**

**NATIONAL STATEMENT**  
**By Head of the Cambodian Delegation,**  
**His Excellency SAY Samal, Minister of Environment**  
**At the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 25/ CMP 15/CMA 2**  
**Madrid, Spain, 2-13 December 2019**

- *Madame President,*
- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

1. It is my great pleasure to address this “High Level Segment of the United Nations Climate Change Conference”. On behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to the governments of Spain and Chile as well as the UNFCCC Secretariat for making this important event possible, so that we could continue discussing the steps forward to address the pressing problems of climate change.
2. This year has again seen mounting scientific evidence of the impacts of climate change on agriculture and important biospheres critical to livelihoods and food security in vulnerable countries like Cambodia. The recent Special Reports by IPCC all underscore the need to act urgently and with more ambition.
3. Cambodia supports efforts by the UN Secretary-General to promote enhanced climate action, and welcome the increased level of citizen mobilization for climate actions that we have seen around the world in 2019, particularly the youth.
4. However, we remain gravely concerned that the level of commitments registered to date fall far short of what is needed to achieve the 1.5°C target, and put us on a path that would see dramatic consequences for the economies and societies of Least Developed Countries. In this regard, Cambodia fully supports the Thimphu LDC Ministerial Communique issued last October.
5. We expect this COP25 to complete the Paris Agreement implementation guidelines, including a strong set of rules for carbon markets under Article 6. We need this framework to be in place as soon as possible, while the next year will be focused on enhancing the quality and ambition of NDC.

- *Madame President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

6. Cambodia is committed to the Paris Agreement and has been doing its share, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Indeed,

peace, stability and sustained economic growth sustained over the past 20 years allow Cambodia to steadily advance many environmental and climate change agenda. The Cambodian people are now more environmentally conscious and well aware of climate change and thanks to a sustained commitment of the Royal Government, climate change and sustainable development have been increasingly placed in our core national socio-economic development agenda, called the Rectangular Strategy -Phase IV. Our infrastructures are designed based on new guidelines to ensure they are climate-resilient. Renewable energy has enjoyed unprecedented investments and the share of solar energy in our energy mix should reach 20% by 2022 and our latest price has reached a record low of 3.8 US Dollar cents per kilowatt-hour. We have managed to generate some revenues from keeping our forest standing via REDD+ projects, and our REDD+ strategy has been finalized, including a costed investment plan.

7. We have also boosted our capacities to access international climate finance, and the first Cambodian direct access entity was accredited by the GCF last month. Given its stringent standards, this is a significant achievement for a public sector agency in an LDC. Such an accreditation will enable the Cambodian Government to access and effectively channel climate finance to local governments for building verifiable climate change adaptation for the benefits of the most vulnerable populations.
8. Cambodia has joined the NDC partnership this year and is committed to submitting an updated NDC in 2020, including concrete, costed plans to achieve our climate objectives, and an improved transparency framework. We look forward to working with our partners on this enhanced document, and most importantly, on its financing and implementation, starting next year.
9. Despite these positive developments on our part, international climate finance is not yet at the required scale, particularly for adaptation, and remains difficult to access for the most climate vulnerable countries. We call on developed countries to increase their contributions to financial mechanisms under the Convention, including GCF, LDCF and the Adaptation Fund. We also call on the GCF board and secretariat to maintain their efforts to fast-track and simplify access to both readiness and implementation finance for LDCs, particularly for adaptation. These are among what is basically required if the goals of the Paris Agreement as well as the Agenda 2030 are to be realised.
10. Finally, I strongly hope that our negotiations here will deliver the concrete outcomes toward the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as we enter a crucial year for advancing global ambition and actions.

***Thank you!***