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NATIONAL STATEMENT
By Head of the Cambodian Delegation,
H.E. Mr. SAY Samal, Minister of Environment
At the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 26/ CMP 16/CMA 3
Glasgow, UK, November 2021

- *Mr. President,*
 - *Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!*
1. I'm delighted to join you all here in this Conference in Glasgow. The Cambodian delegation appreciates and thanks the United Kingdom and all those involved for making this crucial meeting possible.
 2. This is our unprecedented gathering. Unprecedented because of COVID-19. Unprecedented also because climate change is no longer a hearsay.
 3. Climate change, like pandemics, has no border, and our presence here signifies shared concerns and reassurance that, as world leaders, we are not losing sight of our shared responsibility for climate action.
 4. Cambodia feels the crises directly and takes them seriously. To prevent the spread and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, we have comprehensive vaccination, strict health and social measures being put in place. Still, new variants remain a threat, making our socio-economic recovery challenging. Such crises require stronger international solidarity and cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, including financial supports and investments from developed to developing countries to enable a new path toward resilient growth as well as public well-being and health protection.
 5. Cambodia, a low emission country, is strongly committed to doing our share in the global efforts. Full peace and political stability have permitted steady economic growth averaged over 7% per annum, thus allowing us to make increasing contributions.
 6. We have tripled our climate budgets in the last five years, now around 2% of the GDP.

7. We have commissioned over 400 MW of utility-scale solar energy, representing 15% of our energy mix.
8. We submitted NDC update targeting around 42% in emissions reduction by 2030. Our national total biomass is bigger than ever before.
9. We are increasing share of clean energy, not developing any new coal power plants and not constructing any new hydropower dam along the Mekong River.
10. We are also formulating a Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality to promote activities that can deliver low carbon, climate resilient, and inclusive growth. This also will help us seize the opportunities of green economy – a major driver of growth, investment, and innovation in the coming decades.

- *Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

11. I acknowledge the progress made since the Paris Agreement. Updated NDCs have shown increased climate ambition. Large economies have set net zero emissions targets. Private and public investments in green technologies have risen.
12. Still, we remain concerned that the level of commitments falls far short of the 1.5°C target, which puts us on a dangerous path, particularly for the post-COVID recovery in LDCs.
13. International climate finance is also far from the required scale, particularly for adaptation, and difficult to access for the most climate vulnerable countries. We call for developed countries to increase their contributions to financial mechanisms under the Convention, and to further facilitate direct access to the funds. Otherwise, promoting sustainable and climate resilient infrastructures, disaster management capabilities, and low-carbon development in LDCs would barely be an empty talk.
14. We expect this COP to address these issues, so pledges become actions. We also hope the Paris Agreement implementation guidelines, including a strong set of rules for carbon markets under Article 6, will be finalized here, to encourage forest protection and promote sustainable financing for adaptation and mitigation activities.
15. Now that we enter the crucial decade of action envisioned by the Paris Agreement, it is not a time for hesitation or half-measures, but for ambition, decisiveness, and implementation.
16. I hope COP26 will mark a new era for climate action, at the scale and speed needed for the well-being of our people.
17. Finally, I wish COP26 a fruitful success.

Thank you!