



NATIONAL STATEMENT

**By Head of the Cambodian Delegation,
His Excellency Dr. EANG Sophalleth, Minister of Environment
At the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 Nov-12 Dec 2023**

Excellency President!

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

1. The Cambodian delegation appreciates the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the UNFCCC Secretariat for hosting this 28th UN Climate Change Conference here in the vibrant city of Dubai.
2. As a responsible member of the global community, Cambodia is dedicated to playing a key role in international efforts to address the climate emergency. Even as a low emitter, we are aware of our vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.
3. The dedication to a clean energy transition is evident in our implementation of ambitious domestic energy and climate change policies.
4. Cambodia has achieved 62% renewable energy capacity and is committed to advancing our energy sector's sustainability. We recently cancelled a 700MW domestic coal power project and aim to raise our renewable energy share to 70% by 2030 which is double the ASEAN benchmark set for 2025. Our goals include reducing electricity consumption by 19% by 2030 through efficiency measures and broader electrification in sectors like transportation, agriculture, and industry. Additionally, we uphold our commitment to not construct hydropower on the Mekong River.
5. While championing the development of regional power grids for better low-carbon energy distribution, Cambodia is also turning towards exporting clean energy, namely to Singapore.
6. During our tenure as 2022 ASEAN Chair, Cambodia launched the 'ASEAN Green Deal' to guide the region towards a sustainable, low-carbon future. Additionally, leading the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change, we also introduced a Joint Statement on Climate Change, endorsed by Leaders at the recent ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh.
7. As part of our journey towards net zero emissions, we are focusing on ensuring a just transition for our workforce, prioritising the needs of women and other vulnerable groups. Our investment in resilient infrastructure is key to this effort, as it will transform our cities into more

sustainable and liveable environments. We are dedicated to climate-smart growth, decarbonizing supply chains and fostering a green economy. Supporting these initiatives is our 'Green Cambodia' strategy, which aims to plant over 1 million trees yearly to achieve 60% forest cover and be a country with carbon neutrality by 2050.

8. Cambodia believes that (1) Mitigation ambition must be further increased; (2) Adaptation actions needed to accelerated; and (3) Loss and damage must be taken into serious consideration. The USD 100 billion per year commitment must be the top priority.

Excellency President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

9. Cambodia, alongside other nations, has made progress since the Paris Agreement. Yet, emissions are still too high to prevent temperatures rising above a key threshold of 1.5 degrees celsius.
10. The opportunity for effective climate intervention is narrowing. We need decisive action now. We urge COP28 to mark the beginning of unprecedented global collaboration for climate resilience, ensuring the well-being of communities and the health of our planet.

Thank you.