



Kingdom of Cambodia

STATEMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY Mr. **ROSS SOVAN**
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT,
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA
ADDRESS AT FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (PrepCom1) OF
THE THIRD UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
14TH – 15TH JULY 2014

Co-chairs, Yours Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for our Cambodia Delegation to attend the First Session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom1) of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, being held here, from 14-15 July 2014, in beloved city of Geneva, Switzerland.

Hereby, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to and gratefulness to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) for its continued supports, in particular the assistance to Cambodia Delegation to attend this important meeting. While we are gathering here in this conference room, several parts of our world are facing adversity and insecurity in term of life, livelihood, and social economic caused by both natural disasters and human-induced emergencies.

Please allow me, in the name of ***His Excellency Dr. NHIM VANDA***, Senior Minister in charge of Special Missions of the Royal Government of Cambodia and First Vice President of the National Committee for Disaster Management, to pray for those who lost their lives and being deprived by those disasters and to share my deep condolences to the families and friends who lost their love ones in the course of those said unfortunate events; taking for instance, the recent Haiyan Typhoon in the Philippines, the missing plane of Malaysian Airline Flight MH 370 and the Typhoon Neoguri in Japan in this July 2014, etc.

Disasters continue to make the rise of losses of lives, social, cultural, economic, environment, and have their impact on human development gains. The grave consequences of disasters for the survival, particularly the poor, are those needs from time to time for rebuilding their livelihood and social economy in order to return to their harmonized communities and society. The changing demographic, technological and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, under-development, environmental degradation, climate change, competition for natural resources, and the emerging threats of epidemics such as H5N1 and other virulent diseases, indicate that we are not totally living in a safe world, especially poor population who are still living in low and developing economy.

Fifteen years ago, we were here that our works later supported the endorsement of the Hyogo Framework for Action during the World Conference on DRR, took place 18 to 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. Five priorities were identified, committed and implemented by all states, UNs, IOs and Civil Societies in order to confirm our commitment toward *Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*. However, our mission to is never ends, as a result, today we are gathering here once again to continue our collective efforts to reduce disaster risks, prepare ourselves for a better response, and timely recover from a disaster through a systematically integrated policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction, with supports through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, and partnerships. Therefore, First Session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom1) of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, being held here, from 14-15 July 2014, is a perfect time and I would like to sincerely praise for all excellent works that have been done in order to prepare for this meeting and for the coming “**Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**” to be held from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan.

In March 2015, at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan, United Nations Member States will adopt the successor arrangements to the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA), referred to as the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. At the same time, 2015 will also see the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a new agreement on climate change. Together these instruments should enable actions at all levels to manage disaster risks and climate change in a way that facilitates sustainable development.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Cambodia fully support the above-said Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its relevant instruments and tools. Hence, in this connection, Cambodia will intensify its commitments and efforts in implementation and promotion of the five key areas in disaster risk reduction and management such as; (a) Governance: organizational, legal

and policy frameworks; (b) Risk identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning; (c) Knowledge management and education; (d) Reducing underlying risk factors; and (e) Preparedness for effective response and recovery.

The Royal Government of Cambodia believes in “*Investment today is safer tomorrow*”. It has realized that keys for promotion and improvement of Disaster Risk Reduction is where there is increase of investment in all level actions included laws and policies endorsement, strategies formulation, institutional building and capacity strengthening, education and human resources development, and indispensable financial investment in both soft and hard measures. The Royal Government of Cambodia developed and implemented the Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP-DRR) 2008-2013, and has recently development its successor; the SNAP-DRR2_2014-2018 and integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Management into National Strategic Development Plan_2014-2018.

The following are the significant achievements that have been made and being progress:

1. The Government’s Rectangular Strategy Phase 3;
2. The draft Disaster Management Law is completed and is due to be passed by the National Assembly of the 5th mandate;
3. The formulation of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management is ongoing;
4. Disaster risks study and digital web-based risk map of the country has been developed;
5. Actionable Early Warning system (EWS) using newly developed technology such as Unified SMS and Voice Alert System is being developed and tested;
6. Community safe housing and resilience through a safer housing has been improved thought a development of rural safe housing building guideline and handbook;
7. The National Contingency Plan is being implemented with support for sub-national level contingency planning for flood and drought response;

For sectoral focus and investment, the Royal Government of Cambodia has implemented flood management and mitigation through construction of flood releasing channels, flood protecting dikes, water reservoirs, flood diverting canals as well as strengthening and expanding the mechanism of monitoring, forecasting and dissemination, hydrology and meteorology in timely and accurately manner aim at ensuring safety in cultivation. The establishment of the Cambodia Food Reserve System in terms of food stock which consists of paddy, milled rice and rice seed including non-seasonal short term rice, vegetable and other crop seeds in order for building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities.

The partnership and cooperation in disaster risk reduction has been widely expanded and a number of institutions, including government institutions and non-government organizations involved in the disaster risk reduction activities as well as the key ministries-institutions have increasingly accepted disaster risk reduction by incorporating it into their project plans. Along with this, the community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) activities have been smoothly moved forward with many practitioners involved. Moreover, the disaster risk reduction and climate change have been incorporated into the Climate Change Response Strategic Plan by paying high attention to the underlying risk factors, enhancing the early warning system on weather, connecting the climate change adaptation with disaster risk reduction and building disaster resilience and capacity of climate change adaptation at all levels through the education.

Towards the implementation of the *Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, The Royal Government of Cambodia adhere all the recommendations and continued to cohesively carry out the following tasks:

- Strictly implement the Policy Agenda and Rectangular Strategy Phase III of the Royal Government of Cambodia of the Fifth Legislature of the National Assembly.
- Continue to mainstream disaster risk reduction into policy and sustainable development project plans at all levels by focusing mainly on disaster preparedness and reduction of vulnerability, especially women and children.
- Strengthen the legal institutional framework, legal instrument, policy guideline in connection with the regional and international levels and the world.
- Enhance the capacity of line ministries, agencies, partners from national, sub-national levels, especially communities on disaster risk reduction by linking between climate change adaptation and its sustainable development processes.
- Continue partnership for disaster risk reduction and management with moving national agenda of DRR and CCA into one.

Last but not least, in the name of the National Committee for Disaster Management of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the UNISDR for its organizing such important meeting and giving us opportunity to speak on behalf my country, Kingdom of Cambodia and its people in this significant event.

May I wish Yours Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen a good health and great success in all your endeavours and I wish the meeting a success and fruitful toward the Third World Conference on DRR in 2015.

Thank You