

NATIONAL STATEMENT
By Head of the Cambodian Delegation,
H.E. Chuop Paris, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment
At the 6th Session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)

26 February -1 March, 2024 at UNEP Office, Nairobi, Kenya

Excellency Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

1. The Cambodian delegation highly appreciates the UNEP and the Government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting this UNEA-6, under the theme “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.
2. Enriched with nature and biodiversity, Cambodia always places the natural capital at the heart of our socio-economic development agendas, and cherishes this for our sustainable development endeavors.
3. Thanks to peace, political stability and sustainable economic growth over the last two decades, Cambodia is embarking towards a middle-class society and becomes one of the responsible states joining hands with the international communities to address a range of global environmental issues, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.
4. Taking the views of the global and national commitments, the new Government of Cambodia has launched the Pentagonal Strategy Phase I in August 2023 for growth, employment, equity, efficiency, and sustainability: building the foundation towards realizing the Cambodia Vision 2050.
5. In addition, the Ministry of Environment has also launched the Circular Strategy on Environment focusing on Clean, Green and Sustainable to comply with the Pentagonal Strategy and to align with the main principles of the 3 Rio UN conventions (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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6. We have established vast protected areas, covering 41% of the country’s total areas; they are now a mainstay for nature-and-culture-based tourism and local community livelihoods. Cambodia is strongly committed to scrupulously managing and harnessing this scarce natural asset for the long-term benefits of her population as well as for the humanity. We have been working fruitfully with our valued partners, especially UNEP, and we believe that, together we can achieve great goals, including those to fight climate change and conserve the nature and biodiversity as well as to realize SDGs.
7. On climate change, we have been doing our share in the global efforts although Cambodia is a low emitter. For instance, we submitted INDC in 2015, NDC Update in 2020, and a Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality with a 2050 target in 2021.
8. As for pollution controls, one of Cambodia’s current focuses is combating plastic waste through 4R, which are: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. We have worked with various development partners in empowering local governments on solid waste management. Studies have identified Cambodia’s gaps and challenges in addressing marine litter. Finally, Cambodia has recently launched a campaign against plastics with students at various schools as well as workers at factories to raise awareness and make positive influence on social attitude toward plastics.

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9. For collective regional perspectives and actions for this UNEA-6, I believe that access to finance and technology is among the essential components if we want to win this fight against climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We must ensure that our voice is heard at the international negotiations.
10. Cambodia reiterates that “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable development multilateral actions” is the key to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Cambodia reaffirms our commitment to work together with all stakeholders to strengthen our resolution intervention and action to achieve the goals of livable planet and healthy people.

Thank you!