

## Cambodia Statement

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First Vice President of the National Committee for Disaster Management

In

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction

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*Excellencies, Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the great honor to be designated by Samdech **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia and President of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), to this World Conference on Disaster Reduction followed invitation by the UN/ISDR and ADRC.

First of all, please allow me to express my condolences to our human being who have been suffered by both man-made and natural disasters such as; armed conflict, technological calamities, typhoons, flood, droughts and earthquakes etc. Three decades earlier from 1975-1978, millions of Cambodian People lost their live due to execution, hard labor and starvation caused by Khmer Rouge Regime. Ten years ago the people of Kobe here were suffered by a quake that took more than 6,000 death tolls. Today please let me extend my special condolences to the victims of in the recent deadly Tsunamis that devastated through the South and Southeast Asia Regions. Joining with other nations, Cambodia also tried its best to contribute its scarce fund to assist the affected country. Our Prime Minster also attended the meeting on Tsunamis Aftermath in Jakarta, which was held on January 6<sup>th</sup> under the chairmanship H.E. Koffi Anan, Secretary General of the United Nations.

For this enormous event, I would like to extend my profound thanks to UN/ISDR and the Government of Japan as host country who kindly provides warm hospitality and facilitation to our delegation during our stay in Kobe.

We have expected in advance that the World Conference on Disaster Reduction will encourage International Community, Governments, and Inter-Agencies to continue cooperation on assistances for capacity building; technical, human resources, and materials, in order to reduce the negative impact of disaster. Cambodia would like to express its appreciation and gratitude to ADRC, UN-OCHA, UNDP, WFP, WHO, FAO, UNICEF, IRFC and many other institutions/agencies and NGOs who have provided continued supports and assistances in this matter.

Ladies and Gentlemen, six weeks earlier before this conference takes place here, the Third ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management and the Inaugurated ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management were held from 6-7 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with tremendous success. The ASEAN Ministers have come up with several agreements on regional cooperation in disaster management; however, a regional framework for disaster management, especially a desirable instrument for effective disaster response in ASEAN Region yet has not been reached. As a result, while a violent tsunami stroked Asian, including ASEAN Member Countries, assistances from other members could be extended by only bilateralism and favoritism.

As Cambodia has been hosting as a regional depot of the WFP's stocks for the Asian Regional Operation and with full facilitation and support from the Royal Government of Cambodia, the responses to recent Asian Tsunamis of WFP have been able to be carried out quickly and timely.

Planes were loaded goods from Cambodia to the Tsunamis affected countries and by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, WFP was able to successfully dispatched two planes loaded of 160 ton-emergency food and non-assistances from Cambodia to Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

This has demonstrated that a regionally-ready deposit of products for emergency operation such as stockpiles in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, it provided a lot of advantages and possibility for a timely intervention, that why Cambodia takes this opportunity urges the Donors and International Community to consider this approach.

For such enormous event, I sincerely urge the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to work seriously and intensively to further strengthen effective responses to the continuing threats to our globe and I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention on some aspects such as; Regional and international Cooperation, Capacity Building and Training, Public Education, Awareness and Advocacy in the field education, Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management into Development Practices, Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), especially improve the Early Warning Systems.

We all accept that disasters have taken a lot of human lives, destroyed a lot of properties, and devastated social economics and we all have learnt quite a lot the knowledge and understand measures, strategies and coping mechanism in disaster reduction by theory. Nevertheless, the important matter is how and when are we go in to start putting them on ground in order to help the poor who are the most vulnerable to disasters.

I strongly hope that the World Conference on Disaster Reduction will transform those above-mentioned wise ideas to be the concrete actions for reducing the distance between the rich and the poor in disaster reduction to build a safer world for everyone, both rich and poor.

Thank you very much for providing me opportunity to give the speech and thank you for your attention.