

**Kingdom of Cambodia**

**Statement by Dr. Mok Mareth, Minister for Environment**

*To UNFCCC-COP3 in Kyoto, Japan*

*1-10 December 1997*

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan and the Governor of the Prefecture and City Mayor of Kyoto in hosting the Conference on Global Climate Change to discuss an extremely important issue on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and prevention of the effects of climate change on earth.

It is undeniable that global warming is the major environmental challenge of the next century. The unsustainably high levels of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere from the industrialized countries and the rapid economic development created adverse global impacts. We believe that both developed and developing countries will suffer from the impacts of global warming if there are no cooperative efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We believe that there must be solutions to the problem of emissions reduction that are fair to ensure sustainable economic development in the developing countries.

The Cambodian Government would like to have a global involvement in a mechanism under which eventually, everybody in the world will be involved in dealing with this critical issue. We also believe it is necessary to have a realistic target of greenhouse gas reduction for each Annex 1 Party. We also believe that the emissions trading and joint implementation, which under certain conditions initially through a pilot phase, could be useful instruments if these are focused on providing incentives to accelerate the dissemination of clean technologies and we would need financial and technological support from the developed countries. However, it is common sense that developed countries should take a lead role on this issue. Nonetheless, we will actively participate in the UNFCCC process and will continue to undertake among others, activities for forest protection, biodiversity conservation and emissions reduction.

Once again, I would like to call all nations to compromise towards more flexible positions in the interest of a successful negotiation in Kyoto. The Cambodian Government is ready to collaborate with all of you and to do its part to reach a consensus at this COP3 Conference.

Thank you.