

**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**Statement by H.E Dr. Mok Mareth,**  
**Minister for the Environment**  
**Sixth Conference of the Parties, Hague, 13-24 November 2000**

Mr. President, Mr. Executive Secretary, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to express my congratulations to H.E Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Jan Pronk on assuming the Presidency of this Session of the Conference, and I express my heartfelt confidence that under your distinguished leadership, our discussions will result in significant achievements.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and H.E the Mayor, and people of The Hague for their gracious hospitality.

Also, let me express deep gratitude to Executive Secretary Michael Zammit Cutajar, and to all of the members of the secretariat for their hard work in putting this Conference together.

Mr. President,

Recent floods in Cambodia indicate that our country is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and at the same time our current capacity does not allow us to adequately respond to these impacts. These floods have been causing far-reaching socio-economic and environmental impacts to the country. More than three hundred people have died. The same constraints are being faced by most developing countries. This again illustrates that climate change is a real and major environmental challenge today, that all countries need to work together to deal with this common problem, and that developing countries urgently need to build and strengthen their climate change adaptation capacity.

Mr. President,

As citizens of the global community, every one of us shares the one and only earth, and has a responsibility to do what we can to prevent global warming, though the content and degree of responsibility are different among us. No country and no individual has the right to pursue individual benefit to the degree that it damages our planet. It is my earnest hope that this session launches great efforts toward ensuring global benefits and pushing forward the challenge of all Parties, while taking into account the voices of environmental, industrial and labor NGOs, local government and scientists.

Mr. President,

The outcomes of the recent SB-13 meeting in France indicate that all parties need to make additional efforts toward real progress. We recognize that the CDM is a wonderful concept, and we would like to express our gratitude to our colleagues, especially from Brazil, who contributed so much to bringing it into the Kyoto Protocol. We would like to see the CDM mechanism as a vehicle for technology transfer in the implementation under the Protocol with responsibility from the Governments of the Annex I Parties to Articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the Convention, as well as the associated provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

On the question of sinks, the Royal Government of Cambodia puts a high priority on protecting our forests and their rich biodiversity in our political agenda, and additional technical and financial supports are important for the successful implementation of our forest policy. However, the use of sinks is not an equally sustainable alternative as far as mitigating climate change is concerned. Sinks are still surrounded by scientific and methodological uncertainties. It is important to emphasize that the long-term objectives of the climate convention can only be achieved through the reduction of emissions.

Mr. President,

My delegation strongly supports the submission of the Group of 77 and China, and we hope that COP6 will result in the adoption of very important decisions on how to tackle the threats from human induced climate change. I believe that the measures taken by each country and those based on international commitments are mutually supportive in improving the quality of the environment.

Thank you for your attention.