



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement
of

His Excellency Dr. Widhya Chem
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the First Committee
61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York
Friday October 06, 2006

Madam Chair,

At the outset, allow me to sincerely congratulate you, Madam Chair, upon your assumption as Chairperson of this First Committee on disarmament and international security. My Delegation believes that under your able direction, our deliberations will encounter success. You can rest assured of my Delegation's full support and cooperation.

My Delegation would like to warmly welcome Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka, Under Secretary General for Disarmament and wish him success in performing this important post.

Cambodia would like to associate itself with the statement made by Ambassador Reszlan Ishar Jenie, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of Members of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) before the First Committee.

In the face of uncertainties and challenges, where the world seems to be overwhelmed by conflicts and serious threats, such as proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), terrorism, environmental degradation and infectious diseases, it is important for all of us to keep our commitment to maintain peace and security in the world. We are successful in producing larger quantity of weapons notorious for individual or mass killing, but we have been less successful in reducing them.

On the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, my Delegation expresses its disappointment that the 2005 Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) Review Conference ended with failure and that the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document did not include any section on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty need to be reinforced and they remain basic legal instruments for long term achievement of complete and irreversible disarmament. Being genuinely committed to counter the proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction, Cambodia has ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), thus becoming a State Party to the convention in August 2005. From this forum, Cambodia would like to call on States, which have not yet become a State Party of CWC to do so in order to achieve the universal adherence to the Convention. My Delegation believes that the Convention would reassure the universal validity of the multilateral instrument, which bans the development, production, excessive stockpiling, use or transfer of chemical weapons and enhance the collective security.

Cambodia is a non-nuclear-producing energy country. Nonetheless, Cambodia has ratified a number of conventions, namely the Convention of the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, International Convention for Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and International Convention against the taking of Hostages. In accordance with **Article 7(4)** of the Convention on Chemical Weapon, the Royal Government of Cambodia has established a National Authority to prevent the nuclear, biological and radio-active weapons as a positive step to actively implement the Convention.

Madam Chair,

For the issue of Small Arms, progress has been hampered because of disagreement on the final document of the Review Conference to review the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. Despite that fact, we should not be discouraged and we must continue to work more to address this issue.

After three decades of war, genocide and conflict, Cambodia is well placed to reiterate its unequivocal commitment to the collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in order to cement peace, social security and political stability in the Kingdom. It has developed a number of programmes ranging from law enforcement on Arms control to “the Programme of “Weapon for Development”, which led to the destruction of nearly 200,000 units of collected and surplus weapons since 1998. My Delegation wishes to take this opportunity to express its deep thanks and appreciation to Japan and the EU for their valuable assistance to the programmes. In June 2006, the EU announced its completion of its assistance projects, leaving Japan the sole partner with the Government.

Being successful in small arms control, weapon collection and destruction, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has endorsed Cambodia as a Lead Shepherd country-or a country which coordinates among ASEAN on countering Arms Smuggling at the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) in Hanoi in November 2005. Cambodia, accordingly, came forward with the proposal to establish a Resource Center as a coordinating body to facilitate and mobilize efforts and resources to combat the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Southeast Asia. In this regard, we would highly appreciate and welcome support from the international community to realize this important goal of setting up the above Center, which would bring an important contribution to our common struggle against transnational crime and terrorism.

On the international front, Cambodia would like to reiterate its unequivocal commitment to the full implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons by developing national programmes for the control of Small Arms such as a the long-standing plan to curb the illicit small arms trade.

Madam Chair,

The concern of proliferation of small arms could be successfully addressed through the multi-facet mechanism, and the body of the UN is the option we are looking for. More concerted efforts and political commitment are needed so that we are able to achieve common interest. In this connection, my Delegation welcomes this year report (S/2006/109) of the UN Secretary General before the Security Council, especially the 12 recommendations, the observation and conclusions for the Member States to be used as a good foundation to prevent and reduce the spread of small arms. My Delegation stands ready to join hands on those issues. **Thank you**