



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. TUY RY

AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

THE SUB-ITEM (B) OF AGENDA ITEM 13

“FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT”

NEW YORK, 09 OCTOBER 2014

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Secretary General for the successful convening of the 29th Special Session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014, on 22 September 2014, to assess the status of implementation of the Program of Action and to renew political support for actions required for the full achievement of its goals and objectives. We also welcome the report of the Secretary General contained in document A/69/62 and A/69/122 under agenda item 13 (b). Taking this opportunity, it is an honor for me to share view on progress, challenges and comments on this item.

Mr. President,

Cambodia has made considerable progress since affirming its commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action, especially in the area of maternal mortality reduction, fertility decline, gender equality and containment of the spread of HIV. Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we would like to confirm our resolve and will redouble efforts to improve the lives of our people with equity and dignity in the years to come and to ensure sustained economic growth and inclusive sustainable development.

We wish to thank the UN System which, through the leadership of the UNFPA, worked closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia on a review process through a global survey and a series of consultations and reviews in the Asia and Pacific Region. It also supported national consultations, including those with the civil society, to produce a "Framework of Action for the Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD beyond 2014". We endorse the operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action which was based on the use of data of the highest quality and their analysis. We also welcome the fact that the Country Specific Report of the Royal Government of Cambodia on the status and progress of the ICPD implementation is recognized as being consistent with the GA Resolution 65/234 on the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action beyond 2014.

In this Country Specific Report, we have shown that Cambodia has made extensive progress in adopting and implementing national development policies and key sectorial strategies to achieve better development results, focusing on the following aspects:

1. Strengthening of human capital, guided by human rights standards and principles;
2. Strengthening efforts to improve gender equality, equity and women's empowerment;
3. Addressing the issues of adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights;
4. Forging new partnerships with the civil society and the private sector; and
5. Promoting integration of population dynamics and population trends into development planning and policymaking.

Consequent upon substantial declines in fertility and mortality, Cambodia is going through a phase of rapid demographic transition. The size of the labour force is expanding with the entry of a large number of working age youth. This backed up by appropriate policies in all sectors has a great potential to provide the country with a large demographic dividend through further economic development.

Recognizing the impacts of population dynamics, reproductive health and gender on poverty, the Royal Government of Cambodia will strive further to improve the standard of living of its people. It will continue to reinforce the integration of the population and development agenda in a broad-based process of inclusive development through the implementation of the new five-year National Strategic Development Plan formulated to respond to new challenges pertaining to population and development and the changing development environment. Despite the progress made towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and the MDGs, noticeable gaps still exist in the implementation of different areas of the Programme of Action. While recognizing the importance of protecting the present achievements of the ICPD, we would also need to respond to new challenges relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment. We would therefore like to reaffirm our commitment at the highest political level to achieving the goals and the objectives of the Programme of Action of ICPD.

To achieve these objectives, a stronger partnership is a need, which is absolutely vital, and we call upon member states to recognize that the Programme of Action requires adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels for its implementation, as well as new and additional resources for countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources. This is absolutely essential for the indispensable human resource development required for the full implementation of the Programme of Action, which includes training, the exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity development, which entails strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities.

Mr. President,

In the interest of sustaining the momentum and gain from the 20 years' implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, the recommendations derived from the review of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014 should continue to be prominently featured in the UNDG Dialogues on Implementation of the Post 2015 Agenda and/ or whatever frameworks and instruments that would shape the new international development agenda. The Royal Government of Cambodia would call on signatory member states and civil society to spare no efforts in advocating for stronger and bolder political commitment to ensuring that this is the case.

To support developing countries in their efforts to further implement the Programme of Action, it is highly critical that further strengthening national capacity is given first priorities in such a way that national governments could genuinely assume ownership in the implementation.

To enable developing countries to fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014, mobilization of resources from all possible sources and the effective use of financing are absolutely essential.

Last but not least, the Royal Government of Cambodia supports a continuous and more effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the coming years. Welcoming the outstanding outcomes of the 29th Special Session of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014 in the General Assembly and the Post 2015 Development Agenda, we further encourage all member states to not only recognize the overall progress in the Programme of Action made so far, but also to endorse the need for its further implementation for the bright future of the next generations.

I thank you for your attention.