

Remarks by Hon. YANG Sem
Chairman of Commission on Human Rights, Complaint Reception and Investigation, the
Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
at
The 144th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union
under the theme
“Getting to Zero: Mobilising Parliaments to Act on Climate Change”

(Intended: 6-mn reading)
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- *Madame Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia*
- *Mr. President of the IPU*
- *Mr. General Secretary of the IPU*
- *Honorable Presidents of the Parliaments*
- *Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

(1) First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the host country for organising and this physical event in the historical, culturally-rich, and eco-friendly city, despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19.

(2) Concerning the theme of the 144th IPU Assembly, there has been strong evidence that human activities are among the main causes of global warming. The negative impacts of climate change on human livelihoods, health and well-being, water resources, agriculture and food are getting more severe. In recent years, we have witnessed more frequent and intense natural catastrophes. No single continent or place on earth is free from climate change.

- *Honorable distinguished guests!*

(3) Cambodia has been prioritising solutions to climate change in national development agenda, including the formulation of climate change strategic plan and sectoral plans. My country recognises the urgency of taking actions to address climate change, including mitigation and adaptation, in accordance with the principle of **“common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities”** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

(4) We have supported global efforts to respond to climate change by joining the UNFCCC in 1996, the Tokyo Convention in 2002, and ratifying the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2017. In the recent 11th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Meeting (ASEP) held in Phnom Penh, water-food-energy nexus under changing climate was discussed, followed by the

adoption of ASEP11 Declaration calling for global solidarity and Asia-Europe partnership to address these cross-cutting issues facing humanity.

- (5) On 30 December 2021, Cambodia submitted its Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC. The document balances key areas fundamental for long-term national development, including Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions, economic growth, social justice, and climate resilience.
- (6) At the 26th Conference of the Parties, Cambodia emphasised its commitment to addressing global warming by 1) not allowing a new coal plant project, 2) not permitting more hydropower dam construction on the mainstream Mekong River, and 3) seeking to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions from the forestry sector by 2040. Cambodia has just launched a 400-megawatts solar power plant, which accounts for 15% of Cambodia's power generation.

- ***Honorable distinguished guests!***

- (7) The issues of climate change require multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches to tackling them. We would like to suggest the following key solutions.
 1. Building a synergy of parliaments across regions and the globe to enact laws and regulations that respond to individual and collective efforts of respective countries to achieve zero carbon or carbon neutrality targets.
 2. Enhancing multilateralism and collaborations among key stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners, the private sector, and international and national organisations.
 3. Providing protections for the vulnerable groups and implementing interventions for livelihood improvement, natural disaster responses, access to clean water, sanitation, sustainable management of environmental and natural resources, and the use of environmentally-friendly and efficient technologies.
 4. Ensuring financial assistance, technology transfer, capacity building, and necessary support for developing countries from developed countries so that climate threats can be addressed collectively and more effectively.
- (8) In closing, Honorable Parliamentarians of the world, I wish you all a very good health, happiness and prosperity, and above all that we all live in peace on our planet.

Thank you!