Talking Points

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Vice-Chairman of Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment, and Water Resources of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia Delivered at the IPU First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs Under the theme "Turning the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic into opportunities for parliaments to achieve the SDGs" Virtual Meeting, 28-30 September 2021

Session 4: Climate change is real and it's intensifying: What are we doing about it?

1- While the whole world has been combating COVID-19, this meeting is a reminder that we should not neglect the climate change issues which require continued attention and responsibility through constant consideration in finding common global solutions.

2- For this, Cambodia is committed to fighting against climate change with clear and effective measures and strategies, although Cambodia has less greenhouse gas emissions at the global level. Cambodia in its Nationally Determined Contributions Update (NDC Update) commits to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change to be submitted to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by 2021. Cambodia has advanced its commitments by being incorporated a new and specific target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 38.9 MtCO2e, comprising the fields of forestry, waste and agriculture or equal to 18 percent reduction compared to Business-As-Usual scenario by the year 2030.

3- Cambodia has set the new target to include 25 percent electricity generation from renewable energy in the Energy Mix by 2030.

4- Furthermore, Cambodia has committed to develop a long-term strategy in 2021 to achieve carbon neutrality. For Cambodia to implement this strategy successfully, we appeal to all developed nations to fulfill their promised obligations, both in providing financial and capacity building supports and technology transfers to all nations needed.

5- Given climate change is a cross-cutting issue, effective solution of the problem caused by climate change will require a collective and comprehensive participation to commit efforts and turn them into action on the ground from all players around the world, if social, economic, environmental, and cultural goal are to be achieved. This requires all countries to join hands and fulfill its obligations agreed in their strategic action plans.

6- Cambodia is one of the countries that has contributed the least to causing climate change; it is however one of the most vulnerable to climate change. Hence, Cambodia takes climate change seriously in its development agenda to support building a greener, low-carbon and climate-resilient, equitable, sustainable and knowledge-based society, while contributing to the global efforts to address climate change issues.

7- In the context that many countries have been preparing socio-economic recovery plans, this meeting will provide a good opportunity to accelerate the development of low-carbon energy to address the climate change issues, as well as to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement targets.

8- I would like to conclude my intervention by asking the meeting to join us to develop 'The Next Steps' to fight against climate change together.

Thank you for your attention!