

**Country Statements**  
**by**  
**H.E Dr. Ly Thuch**  
**Senior Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia**  
**at the**  
**78<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN-ESCAP**  
**“A Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable**  
**Development in Asia and the Pacific”**  
**Bangkok and online, 23-27 May 2022**



***-Mr. Chair***

***-Excellency Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN ESCAP,***

***-Honorable Delegates,***

***-Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!***

It is a great pleasure and honor today for the Cambodia's delegation to participate in the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) under the theme: **A Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.**

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to sincerely congratulate the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the ESCAP and express my profound thanks and high appreciation to the ESCAP for hosting and inviting me to share insights at this important event.

The journey for the common agenda in Cambodia started back in late 2015 when Cambodia and 188 other UN Member States endorsed the Global Sustainable Development Goals at the UN General Assembly, and the later adoption of the Cambodia SDGs (CSDGs) Framework 2016-2030, with its 18 goals, 88 targets and 148 indicators. ***The Cambodian SDG 18, titled 'End the negative impact of mines/ ERW and promote victim assistance'.***

***Mr. Chair,***

*Unfortunately, my country, Cambodia, is one of the most contaminated by landmines and other explosive remnant of war (ERW) with over 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> contaminated land remains to be cleared. And it stands among the top three countries in the world – Afghanistan and Iraq – with the highest numbers of people with disabilities.*

***Mr. Chair,  
Honorable Delegates,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!***

The progress of the implementation of 2030 agenda has been interrupted by various emerging issues including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), geopolitical competition, disastrous effects of a changing climate etc.

We are rapidly approaching the 2030 horizon for the goals. Those uncertainties and destabilizing factors in the world economy have become more pronounced.

All these poses growing challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is clear that we are not making adequate progress.

***Mr. Chair,  
Honorable Delegates,***

Facing various risks and challenges, the international community calls for closer international cooperation, more effective connectivity, and more open and inclusive world economy, as this will help secure more consensus, pool more strength and foster more cooperation for sustainable development.

Cambodia believes that the battle against COVID-19 and those challenges requires a joint prudent decision-making, under the framework of multilateralism, by respecting international laws and sovereignty of each individual nation, regardless of its size or wealth.

Cambodia is ready to join all relevant development partners, both bilateral and multilateral, to contribute to the efforts to restoring the socio-economic situation and promoting prosperity for all.

***Mr. Chair,  
Honorable Delegates,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!***

As the chair of ASEAN, Cambodia is seeking to address the common challenges facing our region.

With a strong solidarity from ASEAN Member States and the support of its external partners, Cambodia aims to further advance the ASEAN Community building process and to sustain ASEAN as a region of critical importance for global trade, investment and supply chains.

Cambodia will continue to push for a more vibrant and harmonious ASEAN Community with better protection of migrant

workers, a greener and more inclusive development agenda, and a more advanced digital transformation for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women and youth entrepreneurship.

May I conclude by expressing my strong hope for a strengthened multilateralism with the United Nations at the core to galvanize international solidarity for the global community to succeed in overcoming the Covid-19 crisis, advancing peace, sustainable development, and shared prosperity for all.

Multilateralism is our hope, and we look to the UN as our “beacon of hope”.

I thank you for your kind attention.