

**Cambodian Civil Society's Statement for the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (CoP18)  
to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
in Doha, Qatar  
26<sup>th</sup> November - 07<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

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Cambodia hardly contributes any greenhouse gas emissions, emitting only **0.29 tonnes** of carbon dioxide per capita per year (*MoE, 2010*). However, Cambodia will unfairly suffer from the impacts of climate change due to excessive emissions from the rests of the world. Cambodia is also one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change, especially to floods and droughts. In October 2011, over **1.6 million people** were affected by floods which left **250 people dead** and destroyed over one-tenth of the country's crops (*NCDM, 2011*). Cambodia's high vulnerability is largely due to the fact that the livelihoods of the vast majority of Cambodians depend upon natural resources, including agriculture, fishery and forestry. It is also due to the fact that Cambodia has a low adaptive capacity and rain-fed agriculture, while great exposures are identified, of which nearly 53% of the total population survives on less than **\$2 a day** (*World Bank, 2008*) and **one-third** of them continue living below the national poverty threshold of **\$0.63 a day** (*UNDP, 2010*).

Having suffered immensely, Cambodia's poor urgently needs help from the international community to address climate change or their plight will worsen. In this regards, a group of CSOs in Cambodia is working for the interests of vulnerable and poor people and seeking to play an active role in bridging the issues and needs of vulnerable communities to national and international-policy makers. Representing the interests of these groups, we have developed this position paper to demand **climate justice**. We call for the following recommendations to be considered and adopted during the CoP18 in Doha, Qatar.

### **1. Mitigation**

- In line with over 100 countries and numerous other civil society organizations, global warming must not rise beyond **1.5 degrees Celsius by 2020**. A rise in temperature higher than this degree will severely threaten millions of people, especially the poor in developing countries such as Cambodia.
- Cambodian CSOs strongly supports the **Second Commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol**. The Second Commitment should be adopted at CoP18 in Doha, Qatar and started on **1st January 2013 until 2017**.
- Developed countries should pledge to cut their emission by at least **40% below 1990 levels by 2020** in order to ensure the temperature rise below 1.5 degree Celsius. Developed countries should also make further cuts immediately, not waiting until 2020.
- Cambodia CSOs support the development of **Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)**, which are supported by finance, technology, and capacity building from developed countries. The GHG mitigation activities must be **Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable (MRV)**.

### **REDD+**

- A **clear funding mechanism** to support the implementation REDD+ needs to be developed.
- Developed countries should concretely commit additional short-term REDD+ finance.
- REDD+ safeguards which protect the interests of indigenous people and forest communities need to be developed and adopted in Doha, and applied to all countries.
- **Free Prior Inform Consent (FPIC)** should be mandatory for all REDD+ projects.
- Development partners/donors should increase their funding to support CSOs or communities to implement projects related to REDD at the local level.

## 2. Adaptation

- **Adaptation is a key priority** to Cambodia and to all developing countries. The people of Cambodia, including farmers, women, indigenous people, and other affected groups should be compensated for the negative impacts of climate change and for lost opportunities for development.
- Cambodia CSOs support the idea of developing the **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)** and other schemes that provide support to the most vulnerable communities as well as Cambodia. Funding possibilities should be availed to support these plans.
- Treat adaptation with the same priority as mitigation in a future Ad Hoc Durban Platform (ADP) agreement.
- Include **loss and damage** as a part of a future climate change agreement and initiate a second phase of the work program on loss and damage in order to elaborate the principle, function and the institutional structure of international mechanisms on loss and damage
- Cambodia CSOs welcome the Cancun adaptation framework and its provision for a process for Least Developed Countries like Cambodia to formulate and implement a NAP to address not only the most urgent and short-term needs but also medium and long-term needs and key policy reforms to support adaptation.
- Funding for adaptation project for LDCs should be easy to access and delivered quickly. The application process should be simple.

## 3. Climate Finance

- Fast Start Finance of **30 billion USD** should be immediately mobilised at Doha for a period of 2010-2012.
- By 2020, **100 billion USD per year** should be urgently mobilised by developed countries. It should be a long term finance commitment. Developed country parties should make pledges to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) at Doha to ensure a sufficient level of funds to launch its operations.
- Entrench the principles of new, additional, predictable and sustainable finance, with a balance between mitigation and adaptation.
- **Not loan but grant** to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), like Cambodia, should be paid by developed countries, as part of the climate debt they owed to these countries.
- Urgently agree on climate finance for the period immediately after the end of the fast start finance.
- Ensure that poor and vulnerable countries like Cambodia receive priority for funding and that poor and vulnerable people have adequate access to the decision making process of funding institutions.
- Developed countries should provide financing under the UNFCCC.
- The implementation of the GCF should be expedited and **civil society organizations should be included as a key stakeholder in the oversight and management bodies at all levels of the GCF**. A pre-condition for a national designated authority (NDA) to receive funding from the GCF is that civil society organizations should be included as members of the NDA.
- Private finance is often directed to mitigation rather than adaptation efforts and has difficulty reaching the least developed countries and the most vulnerable groups, so it is important to initiate dialogues with relevant stakeholders from governments, academia, the private sector and civil society to elaborate how private finance can best be used to address climate change.

## 4. Technology Transfer

- Create and properly fund an oversight body that will increase communication between the several established **climate change technology transfer (CCTT) initiatives**. In addition to proper funding being provided to an oversight body, greater funding should be allocated to a program that will serve as an information clearinghouse for CCTT programmes.

- We support the establishment of the **Technology Executive Committee (TEC)** and the **Climate Technology Centers and Network (CTCN)**.
- We support the Technology Need Assessment, particularly the urgent need for development and technology transfer for adaptation to all developing countries including LDCs such as Cambodia.
- Enhanced action on technology development and transfer will be central in enabling the full and effective implementation of the UNFCCC beyond 2012. The obstacles to the transfer of climate-related technologies and the types of measures should be taken to overcome at Doha.

## **5. Capacity building**

Capacity building should occur within a framework of integrated, interdisciplinary problem solving that reaches across a broad swath of sectoral and livelihood interests, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water resources management, meteorology and climatology, energy, public health, disaster management, urban planning, and rural development.

This framework should:

- emphasize active participation in long-term research initiatives and international science programmes that are relevant to the country's priorities;
- seek to achieve a multiplier effect by engaging with early- to mid-career scientists, overcoming barriers to women's equal participation, and encouraging active networks of individuals and institutions;
- not be targeted solely at the scientific community but rather should be done in a holistic, integrated manner that builds capacity for interaction and dialogue among scientists, policymakers, and other key decision-making groups. The scientific community's role is to provide scientific basis for a rational and constructive dialogue among stakeholders; and
- promote gender parity and support the participation of women in climate research and decision-making.

The following Cambodian civil society organizations and networks endorse this statement:

1. The NGO Forum on Cambodia
2. Cambodia Climate Change Network (CCCN)

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