

Cambodian Civil Society's Statement for International Climate Change Informal Sessions in Bangkok, Thailand

30th August to 05th September 2012

Cambodia hardly contributes any greenhouse gas emissions, emitting only 0.29 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person each year. However, Cambodia will unfairly suffer from the impacts of climate change due to excessive emissions from the rest of the world. Cambodia is also one of the most vulnerable countries to these impacts, 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. Cambodia's high vulnerability is largely due to the fact that the livelihoods of the vast majority of Cambodians depend upon natural resources, with most of them working in agriculture, fishery and related sectors. It is also due to the fact that Cambodia has a very limited adaptive capacity: nearly 70% of the total population survives on less than \$2 a day and 30% live below the national poverty threshold of \$0.63 a day. Cambodia has only recently begun rebuilding its country after being devastated by conflicts for a number of decades. Cambodia's location near the equator and dependence upon the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers further increases its vulnerability to climate change.

Already suffering immensely, Cambodia's poor urgently needs help from the international community to address climate change or their plight will worsen. Specifically, they need:

- All governments to sign a legally binding agreement which would drastically and immediately lower global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Increased funding, capacity building, and free transfer of technology from developed countries to help adapt to the impacts of climate change

A group of civil society organizations working in Cambodia, we work for the interests of vulnerable and poor people and seek 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 people, we have developed this position paper to demand **climate justice** during the international climate change negotiations in Bangkok.

1. Mitigation

- ⌚ In line with over 100 countries and numerous other civil society organizations, global warming must **not rise beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius**. A rise in climate higher than will severely threaten millions, especially the poor in developing countries such as Cambodia.
- ⌚ We believe in the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. Developed countries, especially the US and EU, should bear the greatest degree of responsibility for the climate crisis since historically they have emitted the most. This means that they should make the largest cuts.
- ⌚ In line with the WWF, developed countries that have signed the Kyoto Protocol must increase their pledges to **at least 25-40% reduction range (from 1990 levels) by 2020**. All of them should

seek to have their emissions peak immediately and be carbon neutral long before 2050. They should also make further cuts immediately, not waiting until 2020. Developed countries who are not members of the Kyoto Protocol must immediately make similar commitments.

- 🕒 Developing countries should undertake ambitious nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) which are supported by finance, technology, and capacity building from developed countries. These targets should reflect their responsibilities and be less demanding than that of developed countries. Global emissions should peak by 2015

REDD+

- 🕒 A clear funding mechanism to support the implementation REDD+ needs to be developed.
- 🕒 Developed countries should concretely commit additional short-term REDD+ finance.
- 🕒 Developed countries should commit to buy forest carbon credits at a high price from developing countries which will not be affected by volatility in carbon markets.

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.
- 🕒 Climate finance for adaption from developed countries shall be increased and should be new and additional, not funding included in official development assistance (ODA).
- 🕒 CSOs welcome the Cancun adaptation framework and its provision for a process for LDC to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAP) to address not only, most urgent, immediate and short, but also medium and long term both concrete actions on the ground and policy reforms to support these actions.
- 🕒 Funding for adaptation project for LDCs should be easy to access and should be delivered quickly. The application process should be simple.
- 🕒 Developed country should support enhanced action on capacity building to improve the enhancement of the capacities and capabilities of developing countries. In addition, it should support developing country parties in developing and implementing capacity building projects and strengthen sub-national, national and regional capacities to address climate change.
- 🕒 Developing countries should empowering and strengthening relevant institutions, including focal points and national coordinating bodies and civil society organizations, in developing countries.

3. Climate Finance

- 🕒 Not loans but reparation to developing countries should be paid by developed countries as part of the climate debt they owed to these countries.
- 🕒 Climate finance must be new, additional and unconditional money. Climate financial support must not be used to level the playing field by adding pressure on developing countries to reduce

taxes, investment regulations, and add feed-in tariffs, etc. to give developing countries the room to build the capacity needed.

- 🕒 Climate finance, both short term and long term, must be predictable and reliable.
- 🕒 Prioritize climate funding for adaptation: **at least 70%** should be for adaptation.
- 🕒 Developed countries are obliged to provide financing under the UNFCCC.
- 🕒 The **\$100 billion per year in 2020** is needed but far from sufficient. Therefore there is an urgent need to mobilize these resources from public and private sources.
- 🕒 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, universities, the private sector and civil society to elaborate how private finance can best be used to address climate change.
- 🕒 Urgent commitments of **\$10-15 billion per year from 2013-2015** are needed as well as a credible trajectory for scaling up public finance in the period 2015-2020 and increased yearly so that the commitment of **\$100 billion annually by 2020** is met predominately with public and private finance.
- 🕒 The implementation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) should be expedited and civil society should be included as a key stakeholder in the oversight and management of the GCF
- 🕒 A pre-condition for a national designated authority (NDA) to receive funding from the GCF is that civil society should be included as members of the NDA.
- 🕒 **Green Climate Fund (GCF) must:**
 - Be long-term finance with a governance structure that is transparent;
 - Must guarantee the meaningful participation of a diversity of civil society and community-level organizations;
 - Reach the most vulnerable persons and communities, including indigenous peoples, who most urgently need funding.

4. Capacity Building and Technology Transfer

- 🕒 Correct past mistakes when creating second generation CCTT programs. The knowledge that has been documented from the many ongoing CCTT initiatives will allow for this.
- 🕒 This post-Kyoto agreement should be quantifiable and long-term, preferably creating a pathway for the next 50 years. This will lower uncertainty and allow for more complex, longer-term projects to be undertaken.
- 🕒 Tariffs placed on clean energy technologies should be reduced or eliminated and the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System should be updated to combine all climate change technologies in the same category.

- ⌚ Create and properly fund an oversight body that will increase communication between the several established climate change technology transfer (CCTT) initiatives within the United States. In addition to proper funding for an oversight body, greater funding should be allocated to a program that will serve as an information clearinghouse for climate change technology transfer (CCTT) programs. Two potential programs are the Clean Energy Technology Export Initiative and United States Climate Technology Cooperation Gateway, respectively.
- ⌚ Enhanced action on technology development and transfer will be central in enabling the full and effective implementation of the UNFCCC beyond 2012. Yet disagreements remain, particularly on the obstacles to the transfer of climate-related technologies and the types of measures that should be taken to overcome them.
- ⌚ Objectives and commitments on transfer of technology exist under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, as well as in the trade context. The difficulty of their implementation, however, highlights the importance of moving beyond general language to the consideration of concrete problems and solutions.
- ⌚ Intellectual Property Right (IP) is potentially both an incentive and an obstacle to the transfer of technology. The exact role of intellectual property right in the transfer of climate-related technologies remains unclear. No comprehensive study has been conducted on the impact of IP rights in the different categories of climate-related technologies. Nevertheless, there are calls to address the possible adverse effects of intellectual property right on the transfer of climate-related technology.
- ⌚ The contribution of existing trade related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) flexibilities to climate-related technology transfer could be significant. Several provisions of the WTO TRIPS Agreement could be used to promote such transfer of technology. Some UNFCCC Parties and other stakeholders are of the view that additional measures should be taken to ensure that Intellectual Property Right rules support the climate regime.
- ⌚ A number of measures related to Intellectual Property Right and other innovation and access to knowledge schemes could also be considered in the context of a post-2012 climate regime. Some of the possibilities already being discussed include financial mechanisms and guidelines on intellectual property right protection for publicly-funded technologies. Other emerging topics include prizes as incentives to climate-related innovation, and institutional arrangements for open or collaborative innovation.
- ⌚ An in-depth study of the various aspects of the interaction between IP and the transfer of climate related technologies could provide the basis for more productive and evidence-based discussions. Specific information on the climate-related technologies most strategic for developing countries, the patent landscape of those sectors and goods, and licensing practices could also assist in identifying problems and solutions. The need for negotiating expertise in the area of technology and IP rights is similarly important.
- ⌚ The use of existing trade related aspects of intellectual property rights flexibilities to promote the transfer of climate-related technologies should be explored in full.
- ⌚ Possible measures related to Intellectual Property Right and other incentive schemes to promote transfer of technology within the climate regime should also be explored. Possibilities range from the inclusion of IP related issues in indicators of technology transfer to the

development of specific mechanisms—some already used in other public policy areas, such as health or education— to enhance the technology transfer component of the post-Kyoto climate regime.

- New mechanisms are necessary to bypass cumbersome state bureaucracies in the case of renewable energy technologies, and to allow decentralized electrification beyond centralized national grid systems.

Capacity building

- Capacity-building should emphasize active participation in long-term research initiatives and international science programmes that are relevant to the country's priorities.
- Capacity-building should seek to achieve a multiplier effect by engaging with early- to mid-career scientists, overcoming barriers to women's equal participation and by encouraging active networks of individuals and institutions.
- Capacity-building should 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, policy makers, and other societal decision-making groups, where the scientific community's role is to provide the science-base for a rational, constructive dialogue among stakeholders with different views.
- 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, among others.
- Capacity-building should promote gender parity and support the participation of women in climate research, decision-making and sectoral interests.

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

1. NGO Forum on Cambodia
2. Cambodia Climate Change Network (CCCN)
3. Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)
4. Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM)
5. Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)
6. People Center for Development and Peace (PDP-Center)
7. My Village (MVi)
8. DanChurchAid/ChristianAid (DCA/CA)
9. Children Development Association (CDA)

Contact person:

Mr. Chhith Sam Ath, Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia

Email : samath@ngoforum.org.kh

H/P : (855)12 928 585