



វេទិកាសម្រាប់អង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា  
*The NGO Forum on Cambodia*

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការវិវឌ្ឍសិរីលឿង  
*Working Together for Positive Change*



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## **MORE THAN PLEDGE TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE A VOICE FROM CAMBODIA**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT TO CAMBODIA**

There is no doubt that Cambodia is one of the world’s most vulnerable countries. Cambodia is regularly exposed to a variety of natural hazards, most commonly floods, drought, and typhoons. The country is considered one of the world’s most vulnerable to natural disasters and ranks 9th in the 2016 UN University World Risk Index. In April 2016, ratings agency Standard and Poor’s designated Cambodia the lowest out of 116 countries in terms of vulnerability to climate change (measured by considering the ND-GAIN index along with the proportion of people living below sea level, and agriculture as a share of GDP.)

According to ‘Understand the past, save the future’ by UNDP and Cambodia’s National Committee for Disaster Management 2,050 people died from disasters between 1996 and 2013. Flooding was the number one killer, accounting for 53% of lives lost in this period. The total damage and losses from the floods in 2013 alone cost around USD 356 million.

With 70% of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture, natural disasters can have devastating consequences on their livelihoods and other economic assets. For example, El Nino has prolonged dry conditions that will result in lower yields from rain-fed crops, a major driver of poverty for the affected smallholder farmers.

### **CAMBODIA’S PERSPECTIVE TO COP23**

As the 23th Conference of Parties (COP23) approaches, Cambodia notes that the ambition is low: mainly regards mitigation measures to achieve the 2 degrees Celsius goal; and the financing of \$100bn per year by 2020. Based on the consolidated Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) report by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, we are seriously concerned that the 1.5 degrees Celsius target will be difficult to achieve. Therefore, it is important to increase ambition, in particular from the developed countries, take on more mitigation than currently pledged and finance commitments to developing countries.



## On the eve of COP23, we voice our concerns and expectations as follows:

### A. AMBITION AND GOALS

1. The world needs a thorough, rapid, gender-fair, economically just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy.
2. The Parties to the treaty in Paris must deliver an equitable, fair-share, ambitious and legally binding post-2020 agreement applicable to all parties according to the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities (CBDRRC);
3. Long-term goals on decarbonisation should be developed to operationalize the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal and to ensure international support to people vulnerable to climate change by addressing both adaptation and loss and damage.
4. Cooperation between developed and developing countries is critically important to enable scaled-up ambition, cooperation wherein developing countries offer conditional NDCs that go beyond their own fair share of the global mitigation effort, while developed countries ensure the means of implementation to realize these additional efforts.
5. Loss and damage, long-term climate adaptation and resilience goals must be an integral part of the Paris package, committing all Parties in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the Sustainable Development Goals, to increase climate resilience by systematically assessing and reducing climate risks, adapting to climate change impacts, and reducing vulnerability. 'Climate resilience' refers to both climate adaptation, climate-induced disaster risk reduction, and Loss and Damage.
6. Ensure the transparency and accountability of climate action, facilitating measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), and demonstrating the fairness of climate actions. Civil society must be one of the key players in this process.
7. Pre-2020 action, including important initiatives to tackle climate change, needs to be addressed according to the Lima-Paris-Action Agenda.

### B. FINANCING

1. Ensure predictable financing of at least USD 100 billion per year by 2020, with easy access for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The finance must be new and additional to existing Official Development Assistance (ODA). At least 50 percent should be sourced from public finance and go towards climate adaptation.
2. Finance for adaptation must be prioritized for the most vulnerable countries, such as Cambodia.
3. The climate finance architecture must respect human rights, gender equality, social cohesion and the environment, and include enhanced capacity building and technology transfer.
4. In addition, we want to see national and international financial support to foster climate adaptation, including through the Green Climate Fund, the UN Adaptation Fund, and the Least Developed Countries Fund in a predictable and reliable long-term manner.
5. In order to continue the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism and Sendai World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction; The budget for Loss and Damage should be separated from adaptation.
  - Continue international technical support and resources for putting modern information systems in place;
  - Improve linkages between national and international scientific communities for predicting and forecasting weather events
  - Advocate for national ownership on joint DRR/CCA integration to national policies and DRR planning across sectors.
  - Improve trans-boundary cooperation and partnership on early warning systems, information sharing, capacity building and other support.
  - Link DRR and climate change adaptation, moving towards resilience and sustainable development as 'the new normal' at the international level;
  - Offer technical assistance schemes for monitoring Sendai implementation, with clear and greed monitoring indicators;
  - Promote tested and validated documentation of best practices and lessons learned on Disaster Risk Reduction and invest in scaling up at the international level.

## C. PACKAGE OF SUPPORT AND OTHER ASPECTS

2. The comprehensive package of support from developed countries must be safe, low-risk, efficient and sustainable by allowing access to appropriate information necessary for the operation and maintenance of the any transferred technology for mitigation, adaptation and avoidance of loss and damage.

1. In the application of climate justice, developed countries must be able to facilitate a comprehensive package of support which includes technology transfer, climate finance, and capacity building that gives consideration to specific country contexts and adherence to the principles of respect for human rights, gender responsiveness, private sector participation and responsibility.

3. Climate change puts our agriculture, livelihoods and ultimately our smallholder farmers at high risk. Therefore, we call for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to assess the impacts of adaptation policies on food security and whether they adequately support the most vulnerable, particularly small-scale food producers.

4. Our gender sensitivity assessment confirms that women and girls are the most vulnerable group to the negative impacts of climate change and disaster. Thus mainstream gender in the development of relevant climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, plans and their implementation at all levels.

### CAMBODIA'S EXISTING MEASURES

To be ready for the negative impacts of climate change and natural disaster, Cambodia has put in place policy frameworks such as the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023, along with sectoral strategic and action plans that include both mitigation and adaptation. In addition, Cambodia is moving towards local climate change mainstreaming, in particular in Commune Development Plans, one of the main financing mechanisms for village-level development.

The synergy between Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is strong. Stakeholders all want to coordinate and strengthen the capacity to develop an integrated CCA/DRR plan. However, the resources for the implementation of this policy are still lacking. For example, neighbouring countries such as Viet Nam, Thailand and Lao PDR have allocated budget to prepare for and respond to the 2015 drought: but Cambodia has been relatively restricted.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has made International Commitments on DRR and Climate Change at the Paris Conference of Parties (COP21) on the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai World Conference on Disaster Risk reduction. As a member of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), Cambodia is also committed to improve its disaster risk reduction capabilities and climate change resilience

It is important to note that there remains strong collaboration between the Royal Government of Cambodia and CSOs in policy dialogue and practice. Cooperation in addressing disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and climate change among the Mekong Region countries is also good.