



European Union

Key Note Address

**H.E. Jean-François Cautain, Ambassador
Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia**

At the

Third National Forum on Climate Change

November 6th 2013, Phnom Penh

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His Excellency Pan Bunthoeurn, Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning,

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I was on the Tonle Sap two days ago discussing with a community of fishermen. When I asked them what were the main challenges they faced, second after overfishing was climate change. The impacts of climate change are increasingly visible for everybody. But actions to address climate change fall short of what is needed. Without prompt action the world is on a path to 3-4°C warming by the end of the century.

Raising the mitigation ambition before 2020 is therefore essential in order to achieve the below 2°C objective. This includes:

implementing emission reduction pledges that countries have made, collectively reviewing existing pledges, and encouraging countries that have not yet pledged coming forward with a pledge, as well as new international initiatives in specific areas to raise the mitigation ambition.

At the 19th Conference of the Parties in Warsaw the European Union wants progress on the scope, design and structure of a legally binding international agreement - to be completed in 2015. This includes identifying the necessary information to ensure transparency, quantification and comparability of commitments. This also means requiring a timetable for all countries to propose ambitious domestic mitigation commitments well in advance of the expected new agreement in 2015.

The European Union is fully committed, and on track, to honour its commitments on tackling climate change.

The European Union's most recent greenhouse gas emission data show that in 2011 the European Union and its Member States reduced their domestic emissions to 18.4% below 1990 levels, while witnessing a growth in GDP of more than 40%.

In the EU, we have legislation in place which ensures that the European Union Member States will achieve their target under the

Kyoto Protocol. Based on this legislation, we are already implementing a legally-binding commitment to reduce emissions by 20% - compared to 1990 level - by 2020. And the European Union still has on the table its offer to move to 30% if others decide being similarly ambitious.

In Cambodia, primary energy consumption as well as CO₂ emissions at least doubled over the past ten years, representing one major challenge for the national energy policy. In view of this I am pleased that Cambodia, with support of the European Union, already drafted a National Policy, Strategy and Action Plan on Energy Efficiency. This enshrines a clear commitment of Cambodia to mitigate the adverse effects of energy consumption on the environment and to contribute constructively to the global mitigation ambition.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

The European Union has a good track record of delivering on climate finance. As part of our fast-start finance commitment the European Union and its Member States over-fulfilled their commitment by allocating 7.3 billion € to fast-start finance over the period 2010-2012.

The European Union is committed to mobilising, with others, a further 100 billion USD per year by 2020 from a variety of sources. The European Union and its Member States will continue to support

climate action in developing countries by mobilising public and private finance. We have also been innovative in integrating climate finance into the overall European Union budget - by committing to allocate at least 20% of the entire European Union budget from 2014-2020 to climate-related actions.

Scaling up climate finance by 2020 will be an iterative process. Domestic climate policies and regulatory frameworks will stimulate support from international partners. Therefore, scaling up climate finance will need to go hand in hand with solid preparatory work by the developing countries.

In this regard I am very pleased that the European Union, with Denmark, Sweden and UNDP, could support the government in this preparatory work by establishing a "Cambodia Climate Change Alliance". The Cambodia Climate Change Alliance is a harmonised and cost effective initiative that, among others, supports ministerial action plans that will include information on how climate change will be mainstreamed in the ministries' planning, financing and implementation procedures.

The Cambodia Climate Change Alliance is also contributing to the development of an innovative national climate change financing framework that will provide information on financing scenarios,

costing, expected benefits and recommendations on climate financing and coordination mechanisms.

I would like to conclude that this biennial climate change forum demonstrates the strong commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia to continue addressing the enormous challenges of climate change. It is a great pleasure to announce today that the European Union will continue supporting Cambodia in setting up domestic climate policies and regulatory frameworks and we welcome other development partners to join us.

This morning I read a news from Reuters: I quote "Greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 will be 8 to 12 billion tonnes more than the level needed to keep global warming to only 2 degrees Celsius, a recent report estimated. (Reuters)". Unquote

I am hoping that your discussions and recommendations will help in proving wrong this estimate and instead will contribute to a greener planet.

Thank you for your attention.