



European Union

Welcome Remarks

Mr. Rafael Dochao Moreno, Chargé d'Affaires
Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia,

at

2nd National Forum on Climate Change
Phnom Penh, 5 October 2011

Excellencies,
National and International Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to provide welcome remarks at the closing day of this Second National Forum on Climate Change on behalf of the Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia. During the last two days this National Forum on Climate Change has been an excellent opportunity for discussions and exchange of information on adaptation and mitigation among climate change practitioners and policy makers. Today the focus is on policy and international climate change negotiations. As you know the European Union has since long been a driving force in the international climate change negotiations that led to an agreement on the two United Nations climate treaties, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

The EU has been a world leader on climate action. We are on track to meet our Kyoto target. We have inscribed our 20% commitment into law. We are willing to increase our target to 30%, and this could be part of a second commitment period under Kyoto. We are committed to the long term target of -80 to -95% reductions of EU emissions by 2050. The EU is showing the way, encouraging others to join.

Some may wonder what drives the EU to do all these voluntary efforts without having a new global agreement yet. Well the answer is quite simple: action against climate change is in our own interest. The transition to a low-carbon economy is clearly identified as a major driver of green growth – e.g. in post-crisis stimulus packages. On top of avoiding the dangers of climate change, benefits for the EU include savings in energy consumption, energy security, new jobs, international competitiveness, air quality and health.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me go back to the Forum discussion topic of today: international climate change negotiations. In December 2010, the Cancún Agreements were a success for the global fight against climate change. They put the multilateral climate process back on the rails, confirming that the whole international community wants to act. They set a common objective of keeping temperature increase to below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. New processes were established to contribute to this objective.

Now the next milestone, Durban, is just around the corner (28 November - 9 December 2011). The European Union believes that Durban will be an important opportunity to progress our work in shaping multilateral action against climate change. Durban will, unfortunately, not be the end of the road but we trust it can take us one step further – by operationalising the decisions taken in Cancún and addressing those issues that were left unresolved in Cancún. This includes:

Firstly the legal form of the global future climate change regime will be a key question and action point for Durban because the current climate regime is insufficient. We all know that the Kyoto Protocol targets end in 2012, which is just behind the corner, and that it covers less than 30% of global emissions – US, China and India are not onboard. The EU's goal remains an ambitious, comprehensive, legally-binding framework *covering all Parties*. It would be the best guarantee

for legal certainty and predictability, reciprocity between countries, and a strong political signal of willingness to act. This question was discussed in Cancún but was finally left open; it will be on the table again in Durban.

Secondly the future role of the Kyoto Protocol represents only part of this debate. The EU is attached to the multilateral, rules-based system that is the Kyoto Protocol, and we strongly insist on retaining and improving the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol for the future regime – for example by extending and further evolving the Kyoto mechanisms, as well as by bringing the Kyoto reporting rules into our broader debates on MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification) following the Cancún Agreements. However, a second Kyoto with the EU (almost) alone in it would cover only around 11% of global emissions. This will not constitute "success" in Durban – what happens to the remaining 89% of global emissions?

In this context the European Union has reiterated its position: the EU is willing to consider a second Kyoto period, but we should agree in Durban on a clear roadmap and timeline to achieve a comprehensive, robust and legally binding framework with the participation of all major emitters. This should also build on the Kyoto architecture, as further improved with a set of rules to be agreed in Durban.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all know that Cambodia's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is negligible – but increasing - still these international negotiations are extremely important, also for Cambodia, as they will determine the future international climate change regime, and at least partly future climate change financing. Of importance for Cambodia will be, for example, the operationalisation of the new Green Climate Fund and how much of this Green Climate Fund would be supporting Cambodia - especially on the key themes of climate action: adaptation, REDD+ and mitigation.

In fact the EU group already started to provide significant funding to Cambodia in order to address its climate change challenges through bundling its resources in the two largest climate change initiatives in Cambodia: the 'Cambodia Climate Change Alliance' (Denmark, European Commission, and Sweden) and the 'Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience' (Denmark, Germany, Spain and UK). These two major initiatives have already been introduced during the first two days of this Forum so I won't repeat this.

However what I would like to highlight is - referring to a recent "Strategic Dialogue for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation" organised by the EU Delegation – that a key challenge and opportunity for Cambodia lies in building a bridge between its current disaster risk management efforts and efforts to promote climate change adaptation. There is a need to better understand the extent to which current disaster management practices reflect future adaptation needs, and to assess what changes may be required if such practices are to address future risks. Let's therefore all take up our collective responsibility: young and old, rich and poor, to the best of our capabilities because we have – unfortunately - no choice what regards climate change:

Our mitigation action must be collective.

Our adaptation action must be now.

Thank you for your attention.