



European Union

**Opening Remarks by
H.E. Jean-François Cautain, Ambassador
Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia
at
“Inception Workshop for the Development of a National Climate Change Financing
Framework and Climate Change Action Plans in Priority Ministries”
Himawari Hotel
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Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today at the “Inception Workshop for the Development of a National Climate Change Financing Framework and Climate Change Action Plans in Priority Ministries”.

As you know, tackling Climate Change is a key priority for the EU. It is why the EU and its Member States have not only fulfilled their commitment to provide €7.2 billion cumulatively over the 2010-12 fast-start period but have also surpassed their target.

The EU used existing bilateral and multilateral delivery channels where possible and reinforced existing initiatives. This facilitated a quick delivery as developing countries were able to build on existing working relationships with bilateral agencies and multilateral institutions.

To give you a few examples: EU fast-start finance has been provided - also to Cambodia - through existing multilateral channels such as the Climate Investment Funds, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, and the Multilateral Development Banks.

Despite this EU's achievement, more leveraging and continued global climate finance contributions will be necessary post-2012. We need to support initiatives that will deliver substantial results and value for money in helping to support adaptation to climate change and to achieve emissions reductions needed in particular in the Least Developed Countries and Small Islands States.

The EU is currently working in a constructive manner towards the identification of strategies and approaches to scaling up climate finance from 2013 to 2020.

In order to ensure maximum impact of the different funds and instruments, domestic efforts by developing countries are encouraged. It should include the phasing out of fossil fuel

subsidies and other distortions, the provision of good framework conditions for investments and, comprehensive and nationally appropriate adaptation and mitigation plans.

The mobilisation of long-term climate finance for mitigation will depend on meaningful mitigation actions, transparency on implementation, and on a robust governance system inter alia ensuring measurement, reporting and verification being in place, taking into account the particular situation of LDCs. Further improvements in the knowledge base on climate impacts and capacity building efforts will facilitate better long-term adaptation actions.

The public finance contributions of participating parties to post-2012 financing are, in most instances, yet to be determined and should be agreed as part of the ongoing international climate negotiations.

The EU encourages and strongly supports dialogues at national level to facilitate the smart use of the funds made available. In view of this we are very satisfied with Cambodia's strategic approach of mainstreaming climate change into programmatic development planning at all levels rather than going for individual projects.

This is why the Cambodia Climate Change "Alliance" has been set up. Therefore I would like to congratulate the National Committee for Climate Change, the Climate Change Department, the line ministries involved and the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance team for the excellent work done so far.

Of course, the quality of climate change mainstreaming in the National Strategic Development Plan, and specific Sector Action Plans aligned to the National Strategic Development Plan, will be essential to attract external funding.

The focus on financing mechanisms in addition to planning is also critical to this mainstreaming process, because mainstreaming will not happen if the financing mechanisms do not allow for a smooth integration of development and climate change financing. This needs to include mechanisms for both domestic and external financing.

Finally I sincerely wish that this "Inception Workshop for the Development of a National Climate Change Financing Framework and Climate Change Action Plans in Priority Ministries" is only the start of a strong and continued dialogue for coordination mechanisms that need to be in place to attract external funding.

I wish you a fruitful day of discussions and sharing of experiences. Thank you for your attention.