



Cambodian Civil Society's Joint Statement for the 20th Conference of Parties (COP 20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in LIMA, PERU

Introduction

The 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) states that global warming is an unequivocal truth. Climate change has already had adverse impacts on people, particularly the poor, who suffer the first and foremost in terms of health, safety, livelihoods and economic growth. Projected climate change, if not well addressed, will create additional barriers to future poverty reduction and diminish many of the important socioeconomic gains made by developing countries.

In addition, climate change could seriously hinder the region's sustainable development and poverty alleviation efforts. Cambodia is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in Southeast Asia region due its low adaptive capacity. In recent years, Cambodia has witnessed more frequent and severe floods and droughts, which have resulted in a significant number of fatalities and considerable economic losses¹.

According to a study on the Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment conducted by the Ministry of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia, by 2100, rainfall could increase 3%-35% that causes flash flood, while temperature could increase by 1.3°C to 2.5°C. Cambodia is especially vulnerable to weather-related disasters, as more than 80% of its total population are subsistence farmers.

The Cambodia 2013 Post-Flood Need Assessment Report prepared by the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) in April 2014 revealed the typhoon and the floods in 2009, 2011 and 2013 caused damages and losses to houses, rice crops and infrastructure at an estimated cost of over USD1 billion. The 2013 flood alone killed 168 people, the majority of whom were children, and affected 377, 354 households and 1.8 million individuals nearly across Cambodia.

Besides floods, Cambodia also experiences more severe droughts, with an increase of temperature of 0.8°C in the last few decades, particularly during the dry season. The increase of heat in days and nights has increased in both wet and dry seasons². Annual temperature increases are expected to accelerate after 2030³.

The updated Cambodia National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 (NSDP II), the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP 2014-2023) and the Rectangular Strategy Phase II of the Royal Government of Cambodia recognize climate change as one of the major development challenges and include specific actions to address climate change at both national level and sub-national level.

As Cambodian CSOs, NGO Forum and the Cambodia Climate Change Network (CCCN) would like to demand the following:

Mitigation

- There is an urgent need to increase ambitions and set a clear target of emission reductions in order to maintain the ceiling temperature rise below 2 degree Celsius by 2100.
- To reach this target, the Annex 1 parties must take immediate and serious action to cut Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emission. The commitment must start at individual country level and scale up regionally and globally. It is also important that all parties of UNFCCC make stronger contribution to the emission reduction effort despite the voluntary nature of the commitments.
- The desegregated data on the global emission reduction including the commitment under the 2nd Kyoto Protocol and voluntary efforts should be documented, verified and followed up by the UNFCCC.
- REDD+ market compliance should be developed under the UNFCCC. In addition, a REDD+ Trust Fund should be established under the UNFCCC for developing countries to access in a transparent and accountable manner.
- REDD+ safeguards information system (SIS) should include information of tenure rights, rights of indigenous people and forest dependent communities, drivers of deforestation, biodiversity, rate of reducing deforestation and the conversion of natural forest.

¹ Cambodia National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), UNDP_2006

² Study report (2008) Mc Sweeny, New & Lizcano, Oxford University, An analysis of the temperatures observed between 1960 and 2006.

³ Ministry of Environment (2012) Second national communication report

Loss and Damage

Referring to the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, we would like to see the progress on the implementation as the followings:

- Loss and Damage should be clearly reflected in the Global Climate Agreement at the COP 21 in Paris, France.
- Technical support and clear guidance should be provided to address the Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts.
- It is important to facilitate the mobilization and enhancement of support on the operation of Loss and Damage workplan with respect to finance, technology and capacity-building, in order to strengthen existing structures and approaches, for the effective implementation of Loss and Damage framework.
- The fund for Loss and Damage should be additional to the Green Climate Fund.

Adaptation

- Ensure meaningful engagement of Civil Society, the private sector, and key stakeholders at all levels in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) development, implementation and monitoring process. The role of Civil Society contributes to ensuring good governance practices.
- Ensure country and local community driven processes and approaches in the development, implementation and follow up of adaptation strategy.
- It is essential that agro-ecology is reflected in the adaptation strategy as it has multiple benefits for smallholders: improved food security, and climate resilience. A gender transformative approach should be mainstreamed and reflected in order to respond to climate change.
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) should not be a barrier to technology transfer.

Climate Finance

As one of the poorest and most vulnerable countries to climate change, Cambodia requires financial resources to respond to the negative impacts of climate change. Our Farmers have already paid the price of climate change negative impacts. In this regard, we demand the following:

- We recognize and appreciate countries who have pledged contributions to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) amounting to USD 9.3 billion. Hopefully, by 2020, the USD100 billion, per year as promised at COP15 will be realized in order to ensure adequate funding for full operation of the GCF. The fund should be a long-term financing commitment. Without these funds, the Global Climate Agreement at COP21 is unlikely to be visible and realistic.
- Climate Finance support to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) like Cambodia should be in the form of grants, not loans, and support should be new and additional funds to already committed Official Development Assistance (ODA).
- Climate finance support should be channeled through the GCF mechanism and other existing transparent mechanisms such as the Climate Investment Fund (CIF).
- GCF should support individual country needs and priorities, particularly with respect to adaptation.
- Civil Society should be fully engaged in climate finance management at all levels to ensure good governance practices, and that the support will reach the most vulnerable communities.

Financed by:



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