

Country Report on Multi-Lateral Trading System
the 2nd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus
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By
Hon. Mr. Un Ning, head of Cambodian Delegation

Excellencies
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great honor and pleasure today to participate in **the 2nd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus**. First of all, allow me to express my sincere thanks to **Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi**, speaker of the parliament of Singapore, for organizing this important event and inviting me to deliver country report on national initiatives undertaken in terms of supporting a Multi-Lateral Trading System.

This event gives us an opportunity to draw lesson, experiences as well as to discuss and identifying legislative initiatives that can be harmonized to facilitate regional cooperation in their enforcement.

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After the fall of the Khmer Rouge in January 1979 Cambodia went through two more decades of civil war, which hampered the development of each sector in our country, especially infrastructure and the entire economy. The Paris treaty in 1992 and the first national elections in 1993, supported by the UN, gave birth to a democratic based new Cambodia, with a coalition government. However the civil war still lasted until 1998. Despite this unique history Cambodia undertook tremendous efforts to integrate itself into the international community.

The Royal Government of Cambodia adopted long-term policies and strategies for the national development. The first stage, from 1979 to 1993, was a period of rescue and rehabilitation of both social and physical infrastructure while preventing, by use of force, the return of the genocide regime. The second stage from 1994 to 1998 was a period of reconciliation, seeking for peace, political and social stability as well as continuing the reconstruction of social and economic infrastructure. Stage three, the current period, commenced in 1999. During this period, Cambodia has achieved full peace with territorial, political and institutional unification under the “Win-Win” policy of the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. This stage is a period of strengthening and expanding social and economic structures, institutional capacity building and human resource development as well as deepening reforms in all sectors. It is a complex period characterized by comprehensive challenges which still need long time to be solved.

Finally for the third stage the Royal Government of Cambodia implemented a **sustainable Strategy** aiming particularly at the development of the economy accompanied by reforms of all sectors.

At the same time, I am proud to mention that in less than a decade, Cambodia has transformed itself from a war-stricken country into a peaceful country in the region and

integrate itself into the international community as well as a full member of ASEAN in 1999 and WTO in 2004.

As an ASEAN and WTO member, Cambodia is involving actively in all economic and financial initiatives of this association and this organization, particularly in the initiatives to create free trade areas, investment zones, reducing trade barriers and widen markets. Besides this, Cambodia is also acting as an important catalyst in various initiatives of economic, financial, trade, and investment cooperation in the region and sub-regions. Indeed, we understood the importance of such cooperation which provides a great opportunity for investment and international trade.

Cooperation pushes the implementation of reform programs and the modernization of national economic structures and management systems forward, and strengthens Cambodia's competitiveness based on international standards.

In this spirit, the Royal Government of Cambodia has also focused on improving Good Governance as a further precondition for private investments. The Royal Government stepped up its efforts to remove obstacles for private sector development especially by focusing on improving investment climate including improvement of laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

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The Cambodian Parliament has its duties to review and adopt draft laws, to initiate laws and to monitor the implementation of those laws. Actually, since the 1993 election until present we have adopted several laws related to the Multi-Lateral Trading System such as the law on the Establishment of the Ministry of Commerce, the Law on Investment and the agreement to ensure the investors in the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as the ratification of international treaties as well as several conventions.

Currently the Cambodian Parliamentarians strongly support the collaboration within the region and the international community to promote trade reforms and improvements in other trade-related sectors, and to make contribution to employment generation, investment promotion, supply improvement, and economic growth.

I am confident that the Cambodia Parliament together with the Royal Government of Cambodia are on the right track and stand ready to welcome and facilitate international investments for the mutual benefit of Cambodia and foreign investors and promote the development cooperation as well as economic, commercial and investment cooperation in order to accelerate growth and reduce poverty. However, being one of the Least Developing Countries in the world, we strongly support the exchange of views and policies like on the occasion of our today meeting.

I strongly believe that we will continue our fruitful debate on the promotion of Multi-Lateral Trading System supply in the entire South East Asia region and I wish a follow-up meeting on this important topic for a mutual exchange of the best ideas in the near future.

Thank you

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