

## **Briefing note**

The Senate General Secretariat

# **Parliamentary Contributions to the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference**



Researcher In charge : Mr. **CHHAN Paul**  
Research by : Mr. **NUN Assachan**

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**Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia**

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## Background

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was the first formal international agreement to acknowledge and address human generated climate change. The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. The 195 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention. UNFCCC was ratified by Cambodia in 1995 and entered into force in 1996.<sup>1</sup>

The UNFCCC recognizes that climate change is a common problem for humankind and sets the framework for country parties to tackle climate change.<sup>2</sup> Under the Convention, parties: (i) gather and share information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices; (ii) launch national strategies for addressing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to expected impacts; and (iii) cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change. In addition, the UNFCCC commits developed countries to provide support including finance, technology and capacity building to developing countries in addressing climate change.<sup>3</sup>

The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system. However, the UNFCCC does not set binding targets for greenhouse gas emissions. To achieve the UNFCCC objective, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005.<sup>4</sup> The Protocol was ratified by Cambodia in 2002 and entered into force in 2005.<sup>5</sup> It commits developed countries to cut greenhouse gases. In addition, it established the Adaptation Fund to finance adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol so that they can adapt to changing climate conditions.<sup>6</sup>

## The 2015 UN Climate Change Conference

The 2015 UN Climate Change Conference or the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11) also known as Paris 2015 will be held in Paris, France from 30 November to 11 December 2015 with the aim of reaching a new international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, and to come into effect and to be implemented from 2020<sup>7</sup>. The aim of the new international agreement, which will replace the current Kyoto protocol, is to keep global warming below 2°C.

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<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC website. Status of Ratification of the UNFCCC. Accessed on September 1, 2015 at: [https://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/convention/status\\_of\\_ratification/items/2631txt.php](https://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/status_of_ratification/items/2631txt.php)

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. See brief information on [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/convention/items/2627.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/2627.php)

<sup>3</sup> UNFCCC website. First steps to a safer future: Introducing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Accessed on September 1, 2015 at: [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/convention/items/6036.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/6036.php)

<sup>4</sup> UNFCCC website. Kyoto Propocol. Accessed on September 1, 2015 at: [http://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/items/2830.php](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php)

<sup>5</sup> UNFCCC website. Status of Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. Accessed on September 1, 2015 at: [http://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/status\\_of\\_ratification/items/2613.php](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/status_of_ratification/items/2613.php)

<sup>6</sup> UNFCCC website. Kyoto Protocol. Accessed on September 1, 2015 at: [http://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/items/2830.php](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php)

<sup>7</sup> What is COP21/CMP11? Paris 2015. Accessed on August 25, 2015 at: <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/cop21-cmp11/what-cop21-cmp11>

## **2015 Climate Change Agreement**

The negotiating text for the expected new agreement embraces three important measures: mitigation<sup>8</sup>, adaptation<sup>9</sup> and support. First, mitigation measures aim to, in the long term, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve the goal of keeping global warming below 2°C as specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Second, adaptation measures aim to, in the long term, reduce vulnerability and assist communities facing climate impacts. Finally, the support package comprises finance, increased capacity building, technology development and transfer to developing countries' actions to achieve long term mitigation and adaptation goals. The implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures would be based on 'common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities in light of different national circumstances.'<sup>10</sup>

The process of developing the above mentioned new international agreement went through four previous UN climate change conferences in Durban 2011, in Doha 2012, in Warsaw 2013, and in Lima 2014. The 2015 UN Climate Change Conference is expected to try to arrive at a consensus on the new international agreement.

### ***Related Issues of Interest to Cambodia***

Below are the issues from the negotiations at the 2014 UN Climate Change Conference in Lima that may be of interest to Cambodia:

#### ***1. Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)***

The setting of targets for, and the success of, the new climate agreements will, to a large extent, depend on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). All parties were invited to submit by 31 March 2015, INDCs in which pledges are made to set a 2025 goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to contribute to achieving the objective of the convention.

During the UN conference in Lima, it could not be decided whether INDCs should focus only on mitigation or also include adaptation measures and commitments from richer states to provide financial and technological support for developing nations.

To date, there were 119 INDCs submitted by 29 countries to the UN. A review of a few INDCs from developed countries revealed that there were no commitments to provide financial and technological support for developing nations.

Cambodia submitted its own INDC in September 2015. According to the INDC, Cambodia aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 27 per cent by 2030 and to increase forest cover to 60%. In terms of adaptation measures, Cambodia aims to reduce its vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by improving communities' adaptive capacity, early warning systems, agricultural infrastructure, adopting agricultural practices resilient to climate

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<sup>8</sup> Mitigation is defined as any anthropogenic interventions that can either reduce the sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (abatement) or enhance their sinks (sequestration).

<sup>9</sup> Adaptation as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an "adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities". Adaptation has the potential to reduce adverse effects of climate change and can produce ancillary benefits, but cannot prevent all damages.

<sup>10</sup> ACT 2015. Getting Specific on the 2015 Climate Change Agreement: Suggestions for the Legal Text with Explanatory Memorandum. Accessed on August 21, 2015 at: [http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/uploads/ACT2015\\_LegalSuggestions.pdf](http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/uploads/ACT2015_LegalSuggestions.pdf)

change, implementing programs reducing the risks of climate change related diseases, and improving technical and institutional capacity to deal with climate change issues.<sup>11</sup>

## 2. *Differentiation*

Major developing countries pushed for explicit differentiation (i.e., a clear definition of what developing and developed countries would contribute to mitigating climate change) between developed and developing countries which developed countries rejected. The compromise uses language from the US-China joint announcement, which simply restated the UNFCCC principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities<sup>12</sup> and respective capabilities,” with a slight addition: “in light of different national circumstances.”<sup>13</sup>

## 3. *Finance*

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention under Article 11. The GCF supports projects, programs, policies and other activities in developing countries through grants and concessional loans. The GCF is accountable to, and functions under, the guidance of the COP. A total of USD 10.2 billion was pledged in 2014. Under the UNFCCC, developed countries formally committed to mobilize USD 100 billion a year by 2020.<sup>14</sup> GCF places equal emphasis on both mitigation and adaptation measures, and operates in ways that ensure that recipient countries are a key partner and have full ownership of activities supported by the Green Climate Fund.

The GCF is the newest financial mechanism which is expected to provide its first funding in 2015. The GCF is set up in addition to the current financial mechanisms under the UNFCCC, which are thought to be insufficient.<sup>15</sup>

Other current financial mechanisms include: (i) the Global Financial Facility; (ii) a Special Climate Change Fund; (iii) a Least Developed Countries Fund; and (iv) an adaptation fund.

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<sup>11</sup> Royal Government of Cambodia 2015. Intended Nationally Determined Contributions submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat. Accessed on October 05, 2015 at:

<http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Cambodia/1/Cambodia's%20INDC%20to%20the%20UNFCCC.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Common but differentiated responsibility and respective capacities: in recognizing all countries vary in both levels of responsibilities for climate change and in their levels of capacities to address it, the convention differentiates

parties, requiring developed countries to take the lead in combating climate change. The convention puts more burdens on developed countries in cutting greenhouse gases and requires them to provide financial support to developing countries to cover the implementation costs and adaptation costs. The convention also requires developed countries to be responsible for the transfer of technology and capacity building necessary for developing countries to combat climate change (see the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The US-China announcement added to the principle the phrase “in light of different national circumstances” which some interpreted as: as national circumstances evolve, so will the parties’ responsibilities.

<sup>13</sup> C2ES 2014. Outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conference in Lima. Accessed on August 20, 2015 at:

<http://www.c2es.org/international/negotiations/cop-20-lima/summary>

<sup>14</sup> Green Climate Fund. Facts at a Glance. Accessed on September 1, 2015 at:

<http://news.gcfund.org/download/PDF/introducing-the-GCF.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> UNFCCC website. Fact sheet: Financing climate change action Investment and financial flows for a strengthened response to climate change. Accessed on September 01, 2015 at:

[http://unfccc.int/press/fact\\_sheets/items/4982.php](http://unfccc.int/press/fact_sheets/items/4982.php)

During COP20 in Lima, China refused to contribute to the Green Climate Fund<sup>16</sup> and planned to establish a Climate Change South-South Cooperation Fund and to work with other developing countries. It also pledged to double its spending on south-south cooperation.

#### 4. *Loss & Damage*

The 2013 UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw launched a process to consider steps to help especially vulnerable developing countries cope with loss and damage – climate impacts which cannot be avoided even with strong mitigation and adaptation efforts. But those vulnerable countries failed to add loss and damage to the list of issues the Paris 2015 conference must address.

#### 5. *Cambodia's Position<sup>17</sup> (statement in the COP20)*

Cambodia takes climate change challenges very seriously in its development agenda to support building a greener, low carbon and resilient society and to contribute to the global efforts to address climate change. Cambodia insists that the new agreement should be built on the key principles of the UNFCCC in ensuring sustainable development of developing countries. The efforts and contributions of developing countries especially LDC should be voluntary and supported by developed countries in the areas of capacity building, finance, and technology transfer. Developed countries should ensure provision of new, additional and predictable finance, which is accessible directly and easily.

*Note: Cambodia was listed by the World Bank as a low-income country and one of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change.<sup>18</sup>*

#### 6. *ASEAN Position on Support from Developed Countries*

Concerning developed countries' support to developing countries, ASEAN encourages developed countries to increase commitments in terms of capacity building, technical assistance, technological transfer and financing for least developed and developing countries to pursue ambitious mitigation and adaptation objectives. In addition, the finalization and operationalization of the pledged support by developed countries is of urgent priority for vulnerable least developed countries<sup>19</sup>.

#### 7. *Sustainable Development Goals*

On 25 September 2015 the 193 member United Nation General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 or agenda 2030 at the UN sustainable Development

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<sup>16</sup> C2ES 2014. Outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conference in Lima. Accessed on August 20, 2015 at: <http://www.c2es.org/international/negotiations/cop-20-lima/summary>

<sup>17</sup> Statement by H.E. Sabo Ojano, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment and Head of Cambodian Delegation to the High Level Segment of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 9-11 December 2014 in Lima, Peru. Accessed on August 26, 2015 at: [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima\\_dec\\_2014/statements/application/pdf/cop20\\_hls\\_cambodia.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/statements/application/pdf/cop20_hls_cambodia.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> World Bank 2009. Convenient Solutions to an Inconvenient Truth: Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change. Accessed on August 27, 2015 at:

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ENVIRONMENT/Resources/ESW\\_EcosystemBasedApp.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ENVIRONMENT/Resources/ESW_EcosystemBasedApp.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change 2014 delivered by HlaMaungThein, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN member states at the Joint High Level Segment 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conferences of the Parties to UNFCCC in Lima Peru in 2014.

Summit. The agenda 2030, which was drafted by the UN Open Working Group in consultation with member states, aims to end poverty in all its forms.<sup>20</sup>

The agenda 2030 also covers climate change issues. Goal 13 is to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Goal 13 is meant to be supplementary to the new climate change agreement that is hoped to be agreed to at COP 21 in Paris later this year.<sup>21</sup> Goal 13 includes actions such as strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning for climate change, and improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. It also aims to help push for the mobilization of US\$ 100 billion annually by 2020 as committed by developed countries under the UNFCCC framework.

In addition to Goal 13, Sustainable Development Goals or agenda 2030 addresses other aspects of climate change as well such as:

- Build resilience of the poor to cope with climate change ( target 1.5 under goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere);
- Build resilient agricultural practices and adaptation capacity (target 2.4 under goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture);
- Ensure universal and equal access to safe and drinking water (target 6.1 under goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all);
- Develop high quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure (target 9.1 under goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation);
- Increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and resilience to disasters (target 11.b under goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable); and
- Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems (target 14.2 under goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources).

## The Role of Parliament and Climate Change

Although governments implement climate change policies, programs and activities, legislators also bear their own share of responsibilities for addressing climate change. They can engage in the climate change agenda through the role of oversight, lawmaking, and representation<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> UN News Center 2015. UN adopts new Global Goals, charting sustainable development for people and planet by 2030. Accessed on 07 October 7, 2015 at:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51968#.VhR2hPmqgko>

<sup>21</sup> The Sustainable Development Goals of the Post-2015 Agenda: Comments on the OWG and SDSN Proposals.

Accessed on October 05, 2015 at: <https://www.die->

[gdi.de/uploads/media/DIE\\_Comments\\_on\\_SDG\\_proposals\\_150226\\_07.pdf](https://www.die-gdi.de/uploads/media/DIE_Comments_on_SDG_proposals_150226_07.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Speech by the IPU president, Hon. Saber Chowdhury, Accessed on August 24, 2015 at:

<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cop20/shc.pdf>

*Oversight:* although the executive implements programs or actions addressing climate change, legislators are in a powerful position to affect results of the implementation by the executive. Legislators can scrutinize the executive regarding climate change related budgets, programs, and policy implementation.<sup>23</sup>

*Lawmaking:* legislators can have a significant influence on actions on climate change through their lawmaking role. They can include climate related policies, climate smart development policies, and put targets and objectives into laws. They can do this in consultation with other relevant communities, the public and other stakeholders<sup>24</sup>.

*Representation:* legislators have a role to raise the awareness of citizens on, for example, the impacts of climate change on the environment, and to educate the public about the need to invest, for example, in efforts to address climate change<sup>25</sup>.

## Inter-Parliamentary Union and Climate Change

Regarding action on climate change, the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) objective is to use the constitutional leverage vested in parliamentary institutions to galvanize the political will necessary for low-carbon development and climate resilient societies.<sup>26</sup> The IPU believes that legislators are important actors in any successful strategies for tackling climate change and they share responsibilities for the effective implementation of climate change strategies. They have the duty to enact and amend laws, approve national budgets and hold governments to account for action on climate change.<sup>27</sup>

IPU, by working with parliaments from around the world, aims to introduce a global parliamentary action plan for effective action on climate change beyond Paris 2015 and up to 2020.<sup>28</sup> After Paris 2015, each parliament will need to decide whether or not to transfer the new climate change agreement into national laws, and play the roles mentioned above to ensure effective implementation.

In addition, the IPU expects parliamentarians who attend the 133th IPU assembly to study, comment on, and approve a preliminary draft outcome document which will be submitted to the COP in Paris 2015. The draft document acknowledges climate change is having impacts throughout the world and it is urgent to reduce greenhouse gases and to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees. The draft reiterates the UNFCCC principles of 'common but different responsibilities and respective capacities' and urges that the new climate

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<sup>23</sup> Parliament and climate change, Professional Development Program for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Staff. Access on August 20, 2015 at: <http://www.parliamentarystrengthening.org/climatechangemodule/>

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> Ibid

<sup>26</sup> The 2015 Global Climate Legislation Study. Foreword by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Accessed on September 2, 2015 at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publication/2015-global-climate-legislation-study/>

<sup>27</sup> Speech by the IPU president, Hon. Saber Chowdhury, Accessed on August 24, 2015 at: <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cop20/shc.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> The 2015 Global Climate Legislation Study. Foreword by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Accessed on September 2, 2015 at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publication/2015-global-climate-legislation-study/>

agreement shall take into account support for developing countries including financing, technology and capacity building.<sup>29</sup>

Finally, the draft pledges that cooperation between parliaments will be a means of strengthening the parliamentary capacity for the implementation and monitoring of climate legislation and the dissemination of good practices.<sup>30</sup>

## ASEAN and Climate Change

ASEAN has expressed their concerns over climate change and their commitment to play a role in addressing climate change through a number of its declarations and statements to UN conferences on climate change<sup>31</sup>. In its statement on the occasion of the 16th ASEAN Summit in 2010, ASEAN recognized that the South-East Asian region is vulnerable to climate change and reaffirmed its commitment to achieve the UNFCCC goal<sup>32</sup>.

ASEAN has its own policies on climate change and a program of action. Under section D of its socio-cultural community blueprint (ASCCB), ASEAN aims to enhance regional and international cooperation to address the issue of climate change and its impacts through a number of key strategic actions<sup>33</sup>. Some of these actions included in the blueprint are: (i) encouraging ASEAN common understanding on climate change; (ii) encouraging the efforts to develop an ASEAN Climate Change Initiative; (iii) promoting and facilitating the exchange of information/knowledge on scientific research and development (R&D), deployment and transfer of technology and best practices on adaptation and mitigation measures; (iv) developing regional strategies to enhance capacity for adaptation, low carbon economy; and (v) promoting strategies to ensure that climate change initiatives lead to an economically vibrant and environmentally friendly ASEAN Community.

To implement its statement on the occasion of the 16th ASEAN Summit in 2010, ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC) in 2012<sup>34</sup>. The Action plan which was implanted in 2012 includes the followings: (1) adaptation; (2) mitigation; (3) finance and investment; (4) technology transfer; (5) capacity building; and (6) other matters of regional cooperation. It is worth noting that AAP-JRCC does not set any binding targets for ASEAN member states instead, it focuses on sharing information and best practices and on learning from each other.

The ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC), which was established in 2009, is responsible for the implementation of the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change<sup>35</sup>. The ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI) functions as a consultative forum to

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<sup>29</sup> IPU 2015. Preliminary draft outcome document of the Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the UN Climate Change Conference. Accessed on October 05, 2015 at: <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/133/2cmt-4-dr1.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>31</sup> Raman Letchumanan (?). Is there an ASEAN policy on climate change? Accessed on September 02, 2015 at:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/IDEAS/publications/reports/pdf/SR004/ASEC.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change. Accessed on September 10, 2015 at:

<http://www.asean.org/news/item/asean-leaders-statement-on-joint-response-to-climate-change>

<sup>33</sup> ASEAN 2009. ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint.

<sup>34</sup> ASEAN Cooperation on Climate Change. Accessed on September 01, 2015 at:

<http://environment.asean.org/asean-working-group-on-climate-change/>

<sup>35</sup> ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change. Accessed on September 01, 2015 at:

<http://environment.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/ANNEX-8-Lead-Countries-for-ASEAN-Action-Plan-on-Joint-Response-to-Climate-Change-27-March-2013.pdf>

promote coordination and collaboration among various ASEAN sectoral bodies dealing with sectors impacted by climate change such as energy, forestry, agriculture, disaster management etc. to ensure a well-coordinated and integrated approach to address climate change<sup>36</sup>.

Due to the cross-sectoral nature of climate change issues, climate change is addressed not only by AWGCC, but also by other relevant working groups in the environment sector and beyond (such as agriculture and forestry, energy and transport, and science and technology)<sup>37</sup>.

Examples of climate change related projects in ASEAN are as follows: (i) Clean Air in Smaller Cities in ASEAN Region; (ii) Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia; (iii) Sustainable Management of Peatland Forest in Southeast Asia; (iv) ASEAN actions on trans-boundary haze pollution; and (v) ASEAN Cooperation on the Environmentally Sustainable City, etc.

### Cambodia's Actions on Climate Change

As noted above, Cambodia ratified both the Convention and the Kyoto protocol. To fulfill its role as a country party, the Royal Government of Cambodia has undertaken the following:

- Submitted Cambodia's Initial National Communication (2002) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. The report provided information on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, and measures to mitigate and facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.
- Adopted and submitted the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Through NAPA the Cambodian government acknowledged that Cambodia is a least developed and agrarian country and vulnerable to climate change. NAPA's main goal is to provide a framework to guide the coordination and implementation of adaptation initiatives through a participatory approach, and to build synergies with other relevant environment and development programs.<sup>38</sup>
- Established the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) (2006). The NCCC is an inter-ministerial mechanism with the duty to develop climate change strategies, legal instruments, and programs, to promote participation, and to encourage integration of climate change concerns into relevant policies, strategies and legal instruments, and to encourage broad participation.<sup>39</sup>
- Developed the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan [CCCSP] (2014-2023) (developed by NCCC with participation of relevant ministries, development partners and NGOs). The strategic vision is that Cambodia moves towards a green, low-carbon, climate-resilient, equitable, sustainable and knowledge-based society.

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<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> ASEAN Cooperation on Climate Change. Accessed on September 01, 2015 at: <http://environment.asean.org/asean-working-group-on-climate-change/>

<sup>38</sup> MoE 2006. National Adaptation Program of Action to Climate Change. Accessed on September 02, 2015 at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/napa/khm01.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> RGC, Sub-Decree On The Establishment Of The National Climate Change Committee, Article 1(April 2006), 1. <http://www.asianjudges.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/sub-decree-on-the-establishment-of-nccc-english.pdf>

Alongside the CCCSP, 10 relevant line ministries and institutions<sup>40</sup> developed their own Sectoral Climate Change Strategic Plans and action plans. Measures were taken to make sure sectoral strategic plans are aligned with CCCSP and that sectoral action plans contribute to the achievements of CCCSP goals.<sup>41</sup> In addition, CCCSP mentions the importance of mainstreaming climate change into the local planning process.

In addition, there have been important programs dealing with adaption and mitigation as shown below:

- The Pilot Program for Climate Resilience Project (Ended in 2013) aimed at making sure those investments into agricultural infrastructures take into account positive and negative impacts of climate variations.<sup>42</sup>
- The Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (ongoing) is a donor-funded project addressing both adaptation and mitigation.
- The Cambodia Community Based Adaptation Program (ended in 2015) is a donor-funded project aiming to increase resilience of rural communities to the impacts of climate change.<sup>43</sup>
- Cambodia UN-REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) (ongoing) is expected to reduce deforestation, strengthen conservation, and promote sustainable, management of forests for the benefit of people, especially the rural poor, wildlife, and the climate.<sup>44</sup>
- Promoting Climate Resilient Water Management and Agricultural Practices in Rural Cambodia (ongoing) aims to make Cambodia's agricultural sector less vulnerable to changes in the availability of water resources resulting from climate change.<sup>45</sup>
- The Sustainable Forest Management project (ended in February 2015) aims to strengthen sustainable forest management through integrating community-based sustainable forest management for Community Forests and Community Protected Areas into policy, planning, and implementation.<sup>46</sup>

The projects mentioned above are some examples of projects taken that have been taken from the official websites of the Climate Change Department of Ministry of Environment and UNDP Cambodia. There are other projects that will be implemented by the 10 ministries mentioned above, which have already developed their own climate change strategic and action plans.

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<sup>40</sup> The line ministries included: the Ministry of Environment (MoE); Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF); Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy (MIME); Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS); Ministry of Health (MoH); Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA); Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM); Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT); Ministry of Rural Development (MRD); and the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM).

<sup>41</sup> NCCC 2013. Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (2014-2023). Accessed on September 08, 2015 at: <http://camclimate.org.kh/en/policies/nccc-news/197-cccsp-2014-2023-kh-en-final.html>

<sup>42</sup> Preparation of a Strategic Pilot Program for Climate Resilience Project – Phase I. About us. Accessed on September 12, 2015 at: <https://ppcrcambodia.wordpress.com/2012/04/20/about-us/>

<sup>43</sup> UNDP Cambodia website. Environment and Energy. Accessed on September 09, 2015 at: [http://www.kh.undp.org/content/cambodia/en/home/operations/projects/environment\\_and\\_energy.html](http://www.kh.undp.org/content/cambodia/en/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energy.html)

<sup>44</sup> UNDP Cambodia website. Environment and Energy. Accessed on September 09, 2015 at: [http://www.kh.undp.org/content/cambodia/en/home/operations/projects/environment\\_and\\_energy.html](http://www.kh.undp.org/content/cambodia/en/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energy.html)

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

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