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STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. RY TUY
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

On Agenda Item 132
Programme Budget for the Biennium 2014-2015
Request for a Subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers
In the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)
At
The United Nations General Assembly

New York, 02 April 2015
Mr. President,

1. At the outset I would like to express my appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this plenary Meeting on agenda item 132: Programme Budget for the biennium 2014-2015 contained in draft resolution A/69/422/Add.2 and I wish to address the General Assembly on section 1 of this draft resolution concerning a request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

2. I would like to take this opportunity, to acknowledge with high appreciation the efforts of the Group of 77 and China for their support on the request for a subvention to both international and national components of the Chambers during the Fifth Committee’s consultation in December last year.

3. At this resumed Session, I wish to confirm that in the spirit of partnership with the United Nations, the Royal Government of Cambodia supports the revised draft resolution on the request for the proposed subvention limited to the international component of the ECCC for 2015 with the confidence that the UN will be in a position to provide financial assistance to the national component of the ECCC, when necessary.

4. For the last two years, we have seen that the ECCC encountered shortfalls, which led to the disruption of the operation of the Chambers. Therefore, it is significant that we jointly work to find a better way to address the funding not only for the international component, but also for the national component of the ECCC.

Mr. President,

5. Once again, my delegation wishes to thank the UN Secretary General for his comprehensive report as contained in document A/69/536, in which he has envisaged the overall atmosphere of the on-going developments and the challenges of the ECCC. The Report has also captured what has been achieved so far since the establishment of the hybrid Courts in 2006 with the close collaboration between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations.

6. The Royal Government of Cambodia always cooperates with its partners and all parties concerned in the ECCC process to ensure the smooth and continued functioning of the Chambers as the hearing on evidences of Case 002/02 against Khieu Samphan, former Democratic Kampuchea’s Head of State, and Nuon Chea, former Chairman of the Democratic Kampuchea People’s Assembly, is in the process of being conducted by the Chambers. You may be aware that on 7 August 2014, under the Case 002/01, these two top leaders of the Khmer Rouge were found guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mr. President,

7. Since its inception in 2006, the ECCC has been receiving shared contributions from the Royal Government of Cambodia in kind and cash. As pledged by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei
Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, during his meeting with H.E. BAN Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General, in the margins of the ASEAN Summit in November 2014 in Myanmar, the Royal Government of Cambodia has been and will be continuing to make its contribution to support the ECCC in 2015 totally amounting to USD 4.1 million. Out of this total amount, USD 1.6 million goes to the general operational cost and USD 2.5 million is for the payment of salaries for the national staff for the first half of 2015. The above total funding pledge of USD 4.1 million is equivalent approximately to 62% of the 2015 Revised Budget under the National Component.

8. Despite the above pledge by the Government of Cambodia, it is noted that there are still missing gaps to be filled in for the second semester of 2015. In this sense, while sincerely thanking our partners and donor countries for their financial supports, we would like to appeal to them to consider funding the remaining second semester of 2015 for the national component of the ECCC.

Mr. President,

9. My delegation welcomes the Joint Statement of 25 March 2015 issued in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the UN Secretary-General’s Special Expert on UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials regarding the ECCC. In this Joint Statement, both sides expressed their continued full support for cooperation in the implementation of all provisions of the ECCC Law and the UN-Cambodia Agreement in order to discharge the judicial mandate and procedures of the ECCC. A Minute of Understanding was also signed regarding the way to operationalize the Legal Documentation Centre, the building of which was generously funded by the Government of Japan.

10. Finally, Mr. President, I hope that the United Nations will continue to work closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia to garner sufficient financial support from donor countries to secure the funding for the national component of the ECCC for 2015.

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