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STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. BORITH OUCH

SECRETARY OF STATE

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

High-Level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate and
Promote International Day for the Total Elimination of
Nuclear Weapons

New York, 26 September 2019

**Mr. Secretary-General,
Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today's commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is an important occasion. With multilateralism under continuing threat, and armed conflict spreading across the globe, the international community must work together to avoid an irreversible nuclear catastrophe.

Some seventy years ago, with the world recovering from one of the most tragic armed conflicts in human history, the United Nations was born. The vision for the organization was to help preserve peace and promote development, while fostering friendly relations among nations. It is our duty to live up to these ideals by eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons once and for all.

Today's event presents a timely opportunity for the global community to come together in its commitment to promote universality of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by joining the Treaty and implementing its provisions. Having signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Cambodia is a strong supporter of general and complete nuclear disarmament; and we are fully engaged in our commitment to ratify and implement this Treaty.

Next year, the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly will also witness the fiftieth anniversary since the entering into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We strongly believe that for this important anniversary, we should have a successful Review Conference with consensus outcome.

In this context, I would like to call on all States that have not yet done so, especially the Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The universal acceptance of this treaty will further promote global nuclear disarmament efforts while safeguarding future generations from damaging effects of nuclear radiation.

For its part, Cambodia has fully complied with the Treaty's provisions, and through its work with ASEAN has contributed to the creation of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Southeast Asia. Together with ASEAN Member States we will continue to engage the Nuclear Weapons States – the permanent five members of the Security Council – to sign the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

Cambodia reaffirms its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a priority. We believe that negotiation and compromise are the only way forward. We call on all States – members of the global community – to work together in line with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter to guarantee a safe and prosperous future in a nuclear weapons free world.

Thank you.
