



**National Statement by
Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Third United Nations Ocean Conference,**

Nice, France

09 June 2025, at 16:00-17:00 (5 minutes)



- Mr. Presidents, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

At the outset, I would like to commend our co-chairs, France and Costa Rica, for convening this significant forum. My appreciation also goes to the Government and people of France for the gracious hospitality. For Cambodia, as I address the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference, it is both an honor and a responsibility. The world is at an inflection point. Humanity is faced with a historic choice: **continue neglecting the ocean or finally unite in action to protect it.**

The ocean is our shared treasure, the blue heart of our planet. It is the source of food, energy, and water, providing livelihoods and economic benefits to every nation. It regulates the climate and generates the oxygen we breathe. It is **fundamental to our planet's rich biodiversity.**

The ocean is vital to the well-being and prosperity of generations to come.

As a responsible member of the global community, Cambodia is deeply concerned by the escalating threats to the world's ocean: rising sea levels, relentless erosion of coastlines, and pervasive plastic pollution, a rapid decline in marine biodiversity, and the overexploitation of our marine resources. These challenges demand immediate and decisive action, as well as unwavering collaboration.

The time to act is now!

Cambodia is dedicated to enhancing its national capacities in ocean protection. Cambodia has expanded its marine protected areas, strengthened regulations on sustainable fisheries management, and enhanced national initiatives to combat marine pollution. Cambodia's Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028 focuses on three fundamental pillars: **Clean, Green, and Sustainable**, significantly contributing to the health of our marine ecosystem and its long-term protection.

Within the UN framework, Cambodia is fully committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 14. In addition, Cambodia has consistently voted in favor of the Resolution on the 'Ocean and the Law of the Sea', which garnered overwhelming support from 152 countries during UNGA79.

These efforts reflect our deep understanding that protecting life on land is inseparable from preserving life beneath the ocean.

Cambodia reaffirms its strong commitment to become a party to the BBNJ Agreement adopted on 19 June 2023. Today, I am proud to announce that Cambodia will take the next step in formalizing its commitment by signing this BBNJ Agreement.

We urge transparency in the sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits in the process of implementing the BBNJ Agreement. We also call upon the international community to provide essential technical and financial support to developing nations to build capacity for marine conservation and sustainable resource management.

This includes ensuring access to scientific knowledge, technology, and funding, particularly for marine research, monitoring, and the establishment of robust sustainable fisheries management practices. We must ensure that no nation is left behind in our collective effort to protect our oceans.

- Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

The ocean has no voice. It relies on us!

What we do today will determine whether the ocean can still feed and protect us tomorrow, or become the vast, silent shipwreck of our inaction.

Cambodia is ready to act. To cooperate. To protect.

Cambodia calls for **bold, united, and resolute action** for the ocean, for our people, and for generations to come.

Thank you!