**Your assignment is to write a position paper (statement) on an issue that affects your country. It should be based on one of the sustainable goals.**

**Below is an example of a position statement for Cambodia. Your paper should follow a similar format. Don't forget to cite your sources at the end of the paper. It is your job to find current facts that support your position. Information before 2015 is too old.**

 The United Nations, in 1995, defined “extreme poverty” as "a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information.” 836 million people today still live in extreme poverty. In fact, one in five people in developing countries live on less than $1.25 per day. Most of these people live in either Southern Asia or sub-Saharan Africa.  18,000 children in our world still die each day from poverty-related causes. Countries with high poverty rates are often small, fragile, and filled with conflict. They need our help.

The goal of eliminating poverty has been a main aim of the UN since its inception in 1945. In September of 2000, 189 countries adopted the Millennium Declaration agreeing to “spare no effort to free our fellow men, women, and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty.” The UN has listed “No Poverty” as its first sustainability goal for 2030. It is obvious that poverty eradication is a priority.

My country of Cambodia has recently experienced success in reducing the poverty rate. According to the new World Bank Poverty Assessment Report, our poverty rate more than halved, from 53% in 2004 to 20.5% in 2011. Today, only 2 out of 10 Cambodians are living in poverty. Unfortunately, many of these people are considered “near poor” and live on less than $2.30 per day. These Cambodians could fall back into poverty quite easily and help is needed to ensure that this does not happen. According to Neak Samsen, Poverty Analyst of the World Bank in Cambodia and the co-author of the Poverty Assessment Report. “the loss of just 1,200 riel (about $0.30) per day in income would throw an estimated three million Cambodians back into poverty, doubling the poverty rate to 40%.”

Cambodia urges the UN to take action to ensure that the “No Poverty” goal is achieved and that those in “near poor” situations advance to the place where they are no longer vulnerable. Our suggestions include increasing access to education for all so that children can realize their potential, improving healthcare in developing countries by building clinics and funding vaccination drives, and ensuring access to clean water in all areas. This goal is only possible with the assistance of wealthier countries.

Works Cited

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