

## **Annex 5 Opening Statement by H.E. Minister Chhieng Yanara, head of the Cambodian delegation**

*- Mr. Wolfgang Kanera, Deputy Director General, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development*

*- Dr. Josef Füllenbach, Head of Division for Regional Development Policy, South East Asia, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development*

*- Distinguished members of the German Delegation*

*- Colleagues from the Royal Government of Cambodia*

*- Ladies and Gentlemen*

1. It is my honour to speak at this very first session of our negotiations. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany for the hospitality being extended to us during our stay here.

2. Since the last negotiations in 2009 in Cambodia, development cooperation between the two countries was given further impetus in March last year by the visit of His Excellency Dirk Niebel, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany. Areas of cooperation have been refined to ensure systematic impact and focus. A joint strategy for rural development was prepared and agreed between the two governments to give more strategic focus to German support in rural development. A technical consultation undertaken earlier this year, in February, not only reviewed progress in areas of cooperation, but also helped sharpen dialogues on priorities in the agreed support areas for future collaboration.

3. Of course, such a positive development would not have been possible without the continued support from the government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German people. The Cambodian people and the Royal Government are encouraged by this and the fact that stronger ties will continue to develop. Last month, Germany announced to provide 500,000 Euro as emergency aid to help flood affected people in some targeted areas, a gesture of kindness for which the Royal Government is most grateful.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

4. Today's Negotiations are taking place against a backdrop of positive developments that sets a broader context for development cooperation between Cambodia and Germany. I would like to express on behalf of the Royal Government and the Cambodian delegation, my

Government's sincere appreciation and thanks to Germany for its continuing contribution and commitment to support the implementation of the Royal Government's development priorities and reform programs as articulated in the Rectangular Strategy—Phase II and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) as well as to contribute to deepen the democratization process in Cambodia. Germany will continue to be an important development partner to Cambodia, continuing and strengthening the strong partnership that has been established over many years. The Royal Government would like to appreciate the reform effort Germany has made, especially in the merging of various implementing entities into one integrated agency, the GIZ for the provision of technical cooperation; and I believe this will enhance efficiency and effectiveness of German technical cooperation. At the country level, this would also facilitate a more coordinated implementation of all German assisted technical cooperation activities.

5. Today's Negotiations are also being held immediately after the successful completion of the 4th HLF in Busan where almost 100 Delegates from partner countries, development partners and international financial institutions, CSOs, private sector and parliaments have participated. It was my privilege to lead the Cambodian delegation to this Forum. I wish to share with you that after some detailed negotiations, all delegates endorsed the Busan Partnership for effectiveness development cooperation and committed to form a new Global Partnership. For Cambodia, the Busan meeting will provide a new opportunity to consider how our partnership can be broadened and strengthened to promote effective development. CRDB/CDC will continue to review and reflect on the Outcome Statement to consider how we may contextualise and apply the commitments of Busan at country level. We will of course have the opportunity to discuss this in greater detail at the meeting of the TWG Network that will take place in early/mid- February 2012. I would like to emphasize that the Royal Government considers our today's negotiations as an important process for further deepening the partnership for development cooperation between our two countries. More importantly, these negotiations will of course contribute to ensuring development results through better alignment of German activities with Cambodia's national development priorities and to ensuring the effective use of German resources in the support of sustainable and equitable growth as well as accelerated poverty reduction in Cambodia.

6. Finally, today's negotiations will provide an opportunity to review progress since our last consultations in February 2011 in the implementation of activities and also to discuss the new financial commitments for the coming years. We have a comprehensive agenda for today's negotiations that covers all development cooperation priority areas, including health, rural development and "Democracy, Civil Society and Public Administration" as cross-cutting



issues. I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the hard work and cooperation that have been undertaken in advance of today's negotiations. My special thank is extended to Mr. Hady Riad for his excellent work made so far to facilitate the arrangement of this meeting. I am therefore confident that the cooperation and partnership that has been demonstrated so far will help to ensure that at the end of our meeting we will have reached a mutually satisfactory outcome.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to conclude my remarks on that positive note.