

Annex 4 Opening Statement by H.E. Minister Chhieng Yanara, Head of the Cambodian Delegation

- *H.E. Joachim Baron von Marschall, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany*
- *Dr. Andreas Pfeil, Head of Division for Central Asia, East Asia, Laos and Cambodia
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Head of Delegation*
- *Distinguished members of the German Delegation*
- *Excellencies and Colleagues from the Royal Government of Cambodia*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen*

1. It is my pleasure to welcome Dr. Andreas Pfeil and colleagues from Germany to Cambodia. I wish you a healthy stay during our negotiations. It's my great honor to lead the Cambodian delegation in today's negotiations and I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of His Excellency Ambassador Marschall as well; it's our great honor indeed.

2. Our negotiations today, I believe, will be conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and partnership. Against the backdrop of solid relations established decades ago between the two countries, cooperation between Cambodia and Germany can be characterized as a story of success in development. Support from the German people and government has positively contributed to social well-being and economic progress of Cambodia.

3. Since the 2011 Negotiations, progress has been made in implementing jointly agreed actions, as will be further assessed when we go through our agenda. What I wish to highlight here is that the Royal Government is committed to maintain and consolidate these achievements. Established following the July elections, the Royal Government outlined priorities for socio-economic development of the country before the National Assembly and articulated them foremost in the first cabinet meeting in the Rectangular Strategy Phase 3. This commitment to continue reforms is ever strong and at the same time the Royal Government is working toward addressing the political issues that resulted from the recent political changes with all parties in Cambodia.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

4. We have an extensive agenda before us today. It also represents extensive preparation by both parties and the technical consultations that were conducted in October. Both parties will have an opportunity to review progress and set new directions in areas of cooperation. I wish to reiterate here the Royal Government's assurance that German funds are being used in the most effective and efficient manner.

5. I wish to acknowledge the excellent preparatory work by the German Embassy here, in particular Dr. Ludgera Klemp and her team, ahead of today's Negotiations; also to my Royal Government colleagues who have participated along the process. I hope this spirit of partnership will accompany the discussion that follows today and tomorrow.

6. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe this spirit of partnership will help us to conduct our negotiations in an atmosphere of mutual goodwill and partnership, and I would therefore like to declare the official opening of the Cambodian-German Negotiations.

Thank You.