



**Joint Annual UNDAF Review Meeting
15 March 2016**

by H.E. Minister Chhieng Yanara
Minister attached to the Prime Minister
Secretary General, CRDB/CDC
Royal Government of Cambodia

Opening Remarks

- Excellencies
 - Colleagues from the Government
 - Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren and other distinguished representatives of the UN System in Cambodia
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
- 1 - It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Palais du Gouvernement for our Joint Annual Review meeting of the UNDAF 2011-2015. I wish to acknowledge the presence of my senior colleagues from the Royal Government and our partners from the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Cambodia as well as from other UN agencies.
 - 2 - The purpose of our meeting today is to promote a dialogue between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the UN Country team that focuses on concrete results and achievements made in the final year of the UNDAF 2011-2015 implementation. Our discussion will at all times be guided by the UNDAF basis structure within the five priority areas such as: i) Economic Growth and Sustainable Development, ii) Education and Health, iii) Gender, iv) Governance and v) Social Protection. We also need to ensure that any lessons learned are applied to the implementation of the UNDAF 2016-2018.
 - 3 - Today, we therefore begin by reviewing the key results achieved in 2015. I look forward to the statement by H.E. Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, UN Resident Coordinator, which will highlight some of the key results from last year. We then look forward to a dialogue on activities in each of the five priority areas of UNDAF 2011-2015, focusing on progress and challenges in 2015. I believe that through our focus on the priority activities of UNDAF 2011-2015, we will be able to jointly validate our intended programme of work and activities in 2016 based on UNDAF 2016-2018.
 - 4 - The UNDAF 2016-2018 has been prepared based on a rigorous and inclusive preparation process that was validated and confirmed during the meeting between Royal Government and UN System in November 2014. The final version has been adopted by Royal Government on April 2015. The new UNDAF's three main

outcomes include: Inclusive growth and sustainable development; Social development, social protection and human capital; and Governance and human rights. I now feel very reassured that the UNDAF 2016-2018 is well aligned with Rectangular Strategy Phase III and National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 and our meeting today will guide us on implementation priorities.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

- 5 - Last year, the Royal Government of Cambodia continued to make significant progress to maintain economic growth at around 6.9% and to further reduce the national poverty rate to under 18%. GDP per capita has increased from USD 738 in 2008 to 1,228 in 2015. This means that the country meets the threshold to graduate from a Low-Income Country to Lower-Middle Income Country, which we expect to be confirmed in mid-2016. In order to achieve this progress the Royal Government of Cambodia has formulated a number of policy initiatives that are outlined in the Rectangular Strategy-Phase III and NSDP. This achievement is the result which is based on the high commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
- 6 - At the global level, the Sustainable Development Goals have been formulated and adopted by UN General Assembly last year in New York at the UN General Assembly. These contain 17 Goal and 169 targets that comprise the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Royal Government of Cambodia is currently under the process localizing the SDGs and is already implementing programmes to meet many of these goals. We expect that the SDGs will provide synergy to the Royal Government of Cambodia's own national priorities and will provide a catalyst to mobilise support and maintain progress on the path of economic development.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

- 7 - Before I conclude my opening remarks, I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the acknowledgement to the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, her staff and the contribution of all UN Agency Heads. I must also congratulate my colleagues from the Royal Government for their sustained commitment and input that has guided the UN to ensure that its work is relevant to the needs of Cambodia and is results-based. Our previous work together has demonstrated good results and we can be assured that each UN agency has worked effectively to deliver the results that are anticipated in the UNDAF and required by the Royal Government. Our focus today will ensure that the work of the UN continues to contribute to the development of Cambodia.
- 8 - I wish to conclude my opening remarks on that note and thank you for your kind attention. Today, we will therefore begin our meeting with some preliminary remarks from Ms. Claire, the Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Cambodia, to provide an introduction and a brief review of 2015 results on behalf of the UN Country Team.

Thank you all for your kind attention. Ms. Claire, you have the floor if you would like to make some opening remarks.