



**Joint Annual UNDAF Review Meeting
10 March 2015**

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
 - Representatives of development partner agencies
 - 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 Royal Government of Cambodia and UN Country team that focuses on concrete results and achievements made in the penultimate year of the UNDAF 2011-2015 implementation. We will also consider future programmatic areas of priority for the remaining programming period. 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.
 - 3 - Today, we therefore begin by reviewing the key results achieved in 2014. I look forward to the statement by H.E. Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, UN Resident Coordinator, which will summarize 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 2014. 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 2015 to ensure that the contribution of the UN to the development of Cambodia is effective, consistent with its mandate and competencies, and in-line with the Royal Government's Rectangular Strategy Phase III and NSDP 2014-2018. The work of the UN, which focuses on supporting the provision of essential social services and strengthening

systems of governance in line with global norms, continues to play an important role in complementing and supporting the efforts of the Royal Government.

- 4 - The UNDAF provides a policy development framework for the period up to 2015, which is the year set by the international community to attain the MDG targets and the government policy framework on poverty reduction. Our targets include at least 1% per annum reduction in poverty and ensuring sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth of around 7% per year. These targets and the important contributions of all development partners highlights the important role of the UNDAF as a significant opportunity for the UN in supporting the Royal Government to work in partnership with other development partners and civil society organizations to advance national development.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

- 5 - As we aware that we are on the path of moving from Millennium Development Goal to Sustainable Development Goal by the end of 2015. The new Sustainable Development Goals will be negotiated and finalized this year and so we look forward to our meeting today as an opportunity to begin to focus on these new global goals and how they can be applied in Cambodia. Of course, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN team in Cambodia have started to prepare UNDAF 2016-2018 to continue the collaboration with the Royal government of Cambodia and to ensure continuity and alignment with national priorities as well as with global commitments. I am very pleased that the process of formulating the new 3-year UNDAF has been evidence-based and highly consultative, learning from the experience of past UN support and perspectives of different stakeholders.
- 6 - The UNDAF 2016-2018 includes three main outcomes which include Inclusive growth and sustainable development; Social development, social protection and human capital; and Governance and human rights. These have been validated between the Royal Government and UN System at a Validation Workshop that took place in November, 2014. 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. So as we look forward to the final year of the current UNDAF I believe we can anticipate a smooth transition to the 2016-2018 UNDAF.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

- 7 - 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 2013-2014 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.