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**United Nations in Cambodia**

**Speech of the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Claire Van der Vaeren**  
**UNDAF 2011-2015 Joint Annual Review**  
**10 March 2015 – 08:00am-12:00pm**  
**Palais du Gouvernement (CDC)**

*Final draft - Check against delivery*

Excellency, Chhieng Yanara, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of CRDB/CDC,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished representatives of the Royal Government of Cambodia,  
Colleagues from the UN System in Cambodia,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations System in Cambodia, both resident and non-resident agencies, it is our pleasure to join colleagues representing the Royal Government of Cambodia for our annual review of the UN Development Assistance Framework or UNDAF 2011-2015. At the outset, I would like to thank His Excellency Chhieng Yanara and the CRDB team for jointly convening and organizing this meeting. The purpose of our meeting will be to review the results of 2014 while highlighting the priorities for 2015. As this year is the last year of the implementation cycle, activities will also include preparations for the implementation of the next UNDAF cycle.

We take this opportunity to thank all government colleagues for their cooperation in the last year and the continued dedication to making it possible for us all to continue to work together effectively.

As you know, the UNDAF is a results-focused framework that combines the work of UN agencies operating in Cambodia and represents a joint commitment to support Government in the implementation of its development priorities, in particular the attainment of Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals. The current UNDAF is built around five outcomes, each representing mutually agreed priorities for UN support, drawing on the technical expertise and comparative advantage of the UN.

Whilst my colleagues will provide detailed insights into results across the UNDAF framework at policy and programme level, some illustrations of the depth and breadth of our partnership at the policy level, include our support to:

- The formulation of the National Strategic Development Plan and of the Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy for 2014-2018;
- A holistic approach to human capital that invests in early childhood development and enhances both education and health outcomes for a competitive work force.
- The ongoing administrative and financial reforms.
- A number of sectoral policies and strategies, namely in the areas of food security and nutrition; HIV and STI control; education; rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene; social protection; and industrial development, to name a few;

- The Cambodia Gender Assessment and Neary Rattanak IV and the Second National Action Plan to end Violence Against Women;
- The elaboration of a minimum wage setting system;
- Government in its commitment to promote and protect human rights, particularly of the most vulnerable.
- A coordinated response to disasters, including the unexpected return of migrant workers from Thailand, alongside local authorities and NGOs.

If we look at delivery, a throughput of around US\$ 80 million was achieved in 2014, which is roughly in line with past years.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Today's dialogue is an important opportunity to also discuss how we as the UN system continue to respond effectively as a key partner in a coordinated aid environment. This includes demonstrating our ongoing commitment to strengthened UN coherence with specific consideration for 'Development for Results'.

Through our annual dialogue, we continue to foster our partnership so that this collaboration can be sustained and that the UN remains well positioned to contribute. As has been our priority in the past, we aim to demonstrate a focused and cohesive approach to harmonised programme implementation. In doing so, we recognise the importance of the Government's leadership for driving coherence and multi-sectoral approaches.

The UN continues to implement joint programmes where such strengthened coherence and multi-partner approaches will deliver impact through concrete programmatic results. Examples include the implementation of the Disability Rights Initiative Cambodia Joint Programme and the joint efforts to address climate change through the UN-REDD project. New initiatives in other areas are being explored. The UN's coordinated HIV response built around the national HIV & AIDS strategy through the UN's Joint Support Programme is another example. We appreciated the Government's leadership in the implementation of this government-led partnership with the UN system in Cambodia.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The UN works to mainstream a number of cross cutting issues through all our work and our engagement with partners. Key among these are: Gender, Human Rights, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, Youth and HIV & AIDS. In addition, we continue to work actively with the Royal Government to create a space for dialogue on the Post-2015 SDGs and a number of other emerging issues. The focus of the national post-2015 dialogues on partnership with civil society and the participation of Cambodia in the global dialogue on this theme have highlighted a constructive role for civil society in policy-making.

As a part of our commitment to UN reform the UNCT continues to capitalise on its comparative advantage and the added value of working together. In the context of the UNDAF 2011 – 2015 we are focused on a number of strategic priorities that benefit from joint collaboration and resource mobilisation. Within this context, we strive to respond to emerging strategic priorities, as we are mindful of Cambodia's resolute advance towards lower middle-income status, the prospect of ASEAN economic integration and the evolving development financing environment.

As in the past, true to the principle of coherence and speaking with one voice, our presentation today will be delivered by a number of UN Country Team Members who speak on behalf of the UN Country Team as a whole:

Ms Nina Brandstrup, will focus on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development,

Ms Anne Lemaistre, will focus on Health and Education,

Ms Wenny Kusuma, will focus on Gender Equality,

Ms Setsuko Yamazaki will focus on Governance, and

Mr Gianpietro Bordignon, will focus on Social Protection as well as on financial overview.

These interventions refer directly to the goals jointly agreed in the UNDAF results framework and will concentrate on highlights of strategic results as presented in the UNDAF Outcome Summary Report. We will highlight cross-cutting issues throughout the presentation.

To conclude, our common commitment through the UNDAF is to improve the livelihoods of all men, women and children living in Cambodia, particularly the most vulnerable, and ensure that they are able to realize their full potential. This central priority continues to guide our day-to-day work, our collaborations and our partnerships.

Thank you very much, Okun Charan!

I am pleased to turn now to the outcome presentation. Each presenter will follow in the order assigned for each outcome, as announced. First I would like to give the floor to Ms. Nina Brandstrup. Nina, you have the floor.