



## Annual Joint UNDAF Meeting

### Opening Remarks

**Minister attached to the Prime Minister CHHIENG YANARA** Secretary General,  
CRDB/CDC  
Royal Government of Cambodia  
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- Excellencies and Colleagues from the Royal Government
  - Distinguished Representatives of the UN System
  - Ladies and Gentlemen
- 1 - It is my honor and my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Palais du Gouvernement for this important meeting with the United Nations Agencies in Cambodia. Our objective today is to review the contribution of the UN family to the accelerated progress that Cambodia is making towards the achievements of its long term vision, which is set out in the Rectangular Strategy and also the CMDGs. Our meeting today allows us to focus in particular on the last three years performance of UN supported programs and so it takes the form of a mid-term review. But we also have the very important opportunity to look forward to the last two years of the current UNDAF and to begin our dialogue on the priorities for the successor UNDAF that will take its place in 2016.
  - 2 - 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. This highlights the important role of the UNDAF as the last significant opportunity for the UN in supporting the Royal Government to work in partnership with other development partners and civil society organizations to identify the outcomes and associated actions that are necessary to achieve the MDGs in Cambodia.
  - 3 - Today we therefore have an opportunity to set ambitious goals for the partnership between the Royal Government and the United Nations as we focus our attention on UNDAF implementation. I therefore extend a welcome to all of you and thank you for joining our discussion. On the UN side, it is the first meeting of this kind for H.E. Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, who was appointed as the UN Resident Coordinator to Cambodia since our last review meeting. I also welcome other UN colleagues who are participating for the first time. And I of course welcome all my colleagues from the Royal Government who have kindly joined our meeting today.
  - 4 - As you all aware, the Royal Government has adopted the Rectangular Strategy III for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency. This provides the socio-economic platform of the Royal Government of Cambodia for the fifth legislature of the National Assembly. A cornerstone of the Rectangular Strategy relates to the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs). The Royal Government is committed to achieving the CMDG targets through the implementation of the Rectangular Strategy and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). In recent times, Cambodia has achieved a high economic growth rate of around 7% annually. This has resulted in an increase in GDP per capita from USD 760 in 2008 to nearly USD 1,000 in 2012 and a downward trend in the poverty rate from around 47.8% in 2007 to 19.8 in 2011. Four CMDG goals have been achieved ahead of schedule (Goal 4, 5, 6 and 8). Data

on five other CMDG goals (Goal 1, 2, 3, 7 and 9) show that Cambodia is well positioned to achieve them on schedule by end 2015 if we can redouble our combined efforts to address these off-track Goals.

- 5 - To ensure that this is the case, the NSDP (2012-2018) will soon be finalized and approved to operationalize the Rectangular Strategy. This will provide strategic guidance in addressing bottlenecks and remaining challenges as well as facilitating the transformation to the next level on a growth trajectory to address poverty issues and position Cambodia as a middle-income country fully integrated in the region and the world.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

- 6 - To secure its medium-term development objectives, Cambodia will translate its policy priorities into actions. We will also strengthen implementation capacity at all levels in moving to a higher level of development, transitioning from a low income country to a lower-middle income country, while building the foundations to realize a long-term vision of becoming an upper-middle income country by 2030 and high income country by 2050.
- 7 - In this regard, our success depends on the results and impact of our joint efforts arising from our joint investments within the context of the effectiveness of our development partnership. As we are aware, we are on the path of moving from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness, so sustainable development results are the end goal of our commitments to effective cooperation. Our development cooperation partnership is not only a part of the effective solution, but it plays a catalytic and critical role in supporting poverty eradication, social protection, economic growth and sustainable development. We must therefore make more effort and reiterate our commitments by looking closely at the role of the UN and the impact of its work in 2011-2013. We can then apply the relevant lessons to our plans for 2014-2015 as well as the approach and structure of new UNDAF's cycle.
- 8 - Today, we will therefore begin our meeting by taking the opportunity to reflect briefly on the key results achieved in 2011-2013. I look forward to hearing the statement of H.E. Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, reporting key results from the last three years. We then look forward to a more detailed analysis and dialogue on activities in each of the five UNDAF priority areas; -Economic Growth and Sustainable Development, Health and Education, Gender, Governance, Social Protection. . I believe that through our focus on the priority activities of UNDAF 2011-2015, we will be able to jointly validate our intended programme, especially with regard to the work plan and activities in 2014 to ensure that the contribution of the UN to the development of Cambodia is effective, consistent with its mandate and competencies. In doing so, it is important that we understand that the work of the UN, in supporting the provision of essential social services and strengthening systems of governance in line with global norms is the main focus. In implementing its mandate in close cooperation with Government, the UN is a crucial partner for Cambodia, playing an important role in complementing and supporting the efforts of the Royal Government.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 9 - I wish to conclude my opening remarks on that note. I thank you for your kind attention. I would now like to ask H.E. Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, the Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Cambodia, to provide an introduction and a brief review of 2011-2013 results on behalf of the UN Country Team.