

**Minutes of the Sixth Joint Annual Review Meeting of the United Nations Development
Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2011-2015)
Held on 12 February 2014, at CDC**



H.E. Chhieng Yanara, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of CRDB and Secretary General CDC, in his capacity as co-chair of the Sixth Joint Annual Review Meeting of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2011-2015), opened and welcomed all participants from both government and UN Agencies. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the main objectives of the meeting as 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 Cambodia Millennium Development Goals. He also emphasized that the meeting was to focus in particular on the last three years performance of UN supported programs and provide an opportunity to look forward to the last two years of the current UNDAF and to begin dialogue on the priorities for the successor UNDAF that will start in 2016.

The agenda items of the meeting were:

- i. Welcome Remarks by H.E Chhieng Yanara
- ii. Opening Remarks by Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren
- iii. UNDAF Sector Result Review and Key Priorities for 2014-2015
 - Economic growth and Sustainable Development
 - Health and Education
 - Gender Equality
 - Governance
 - Social Protection
- iv. Discussion, Government response and dialogue
- v. Information sharing and dialogue on subsequent UNDAF cycle 2016-2018
- vi. Closing Session and Conclusion

Remarks by Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, on behalf of UN Agencies, she welcomed colleagues representing the Royal Government of Cambodia and the UN Country Team to join the annual review of UNDAF 2011-2015. She said that, this year, the review of the results for both 2012 and 2013, complemented the earlier review of 2011 results and priorities for 2014, have been combined with some perspectives for 2015. She took this opportunity to thank all government colleagues for their cooperation in the last two years and the continued dedication to making it possible for us all to continue to work together effectively.

After finishing her remarks, five presenters from UN agencies were invited to deliver their presentations, starting from outcome one to outcomes five by showing the progress and challenges occurred in 2012-2013 and key priorities for 2014-2015 accordingly.

❖ **UNDAF Sector Result Review and Key Priorities for 2014-2015**

- Economic growth and Sustainable Development was presented by Ms. Nina Brandstrup, FAO. Key achievements on the policy and program were raised, as well as key findings, challenges and ways forward in agriculture, food security and nutrition, national employment and capacity building and cross cutting issues related to productivity, competitiveness of exports and energy improvements.
- Health and Education was presented by Dr. Pieter van Maaren, WHO. Significant progress and achievements on policy and programme targeting vulnerable people were presented. Policies and strategy creation for safeguarding and ensuring sustainable health care system and education in order to reach the CMDG by 2015 were also presented. The institutional capacity and quality of services with equity focus at

subnational and remote areas have been shown as the ways forward for next two years.

- Gender Equality was presented by Ms. Wenny Kusuma, UN Women. Support provided on policy strategy formulation processes, roadmap for PBA on Gender Equality, JIM for gender equality and gender based violence have been noted as the progress in this sector. Significant challenges were raised including increasing ratio of women in leadership position and the substantive participation by women in decision-making at all levels. The scope for better linking of national plans with national budget was also identified as a challenge and committed as the ways forward and will be implemented for the next step.
- Governance was presented by Ms. Setsuko Yamazaki, UNDP. The progress has been made on strengthening national and sub-national capacity and accountability. Support has also been provided on the development of the NSDP 2014-2018. UN agencies still committed to support the roll out of the Development Cooperation & Partnership Strategy 2014-2018, and leverage capacities and resources for community networks and services for the most vulnerable.
- Social Protection was presented by Mr. GianPietro Bordignon, WFP. Support the development of national social protection policy, joint advocacy contributed to the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection were presented as key achievements for 2012-2013. Strengthening advocacy on larger national investment on SP and resourcing of CARD, reaching more poor and vulnerable people through improved and expanded social safety nets were presented as key priorities for 2014-2015.
- Totally the Average delivery rate for 2012 is 68.52% and likely to decrease 66.51% in 2013 for all UNDAF outcomes.

❖ **Discussion, Government response and dialogue**

➤ **Round 1:**

The National Aids Authority raised the question whether the Cambodia 3.0 initiative is understood by the UN to only cover the health sector.

UNAIDS confirmed that HIV is understood to be a cross cutting issue with a multi-sectoral response required. The UN considers the Cambodia 3.0 initiative to be a very significant achievement in the health sector.

The Ministry of Women Affairs expressed that the summary report does not clearly highlight the main achievements in the area of gender. Particularly the work of the UN Theme Group on Gender (UNTG-G) needs to be further detailed. MOWA further requested to include the result of this year's support on the Cambodia Gender Assessment which plays an important role in mobilizing and work with other relevant NGOs and agencies in the report.

UN Women confirmed to revise relevant sections of the report adding achievements of the Empowerment of Women subgroup of the UNTG-G. UN Women acknowledged the high quality of the Cambodia Gender Assessment report which is a great key result for this year and may serve for the next UNDAF.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) conveyed the difficulty for the Government to identify the overall contribution of the work of the UN as not all UNDAF indicators are linked to national indicators. Further the Ministry requested clarification on the low delivery rate in 2012 and 2013 in UNDAF outcome area 1 and 2 and expressed the recommendation for future UNDAF review meeting to provide suggestions and recommendations for the challenges identified. MEF

informed about the lack of funding in specific reform area and the need to increase investment in areas where progress is slow. On behalf of MEF, he also informed that his Ministry accepted the initiatives from development partners and MEF would welcome UN's role in facilitating the dialogue on the Public Financial Reform (PFR).

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren underlined the alignment of the UNDAF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with national indicators. However, as we move to the next UNDAF cycle, the UN will continue to improve the monitoring and evaluation framework and linkages to national monitoring systems and will look into how to work better together.

WHO highlighted that the summary report understates the tremendous achievements made in health and education in the last couple of years. The UN will continue to contribute to this very positive development of the health sector and try to identify remaining bottlenecks.

➤ **Round 2:**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MoAFF) raised the point that additional efforts are needed to help small holders to improve livelihoods and living conditions; an area in which MoAFF has already made strong and successful efforts. The UN should focus on priority areas and further support key sectors. Lastly, MoAFF expressed their appreciation of the contribution of the UN and requested further support in the areas of aquaculture development, conservation of endangered species and support for fishing communities. MoAFF encouraged promoting increase in the access to micro finance services, contributing positively to the livelihood of small scale farmers. To ensure sustainability of the revolving fund, MoAFF suggested support and technical trainings to be provided as a package to support the revolving fund group.

FAO addressed the importance of promoting micro finance services. The identified challenge for Cambodia is to make micro finance services accessible to the poorest and sustainable in the long term. With regard to the query on agriculture development and fisheries, a national strategy has been drafted recently which will help to identify the needs to eventually improve the situation.

The Ministry of Commerce suggested for programmatic activities under UNDAF outcome area 1 to further promote capacity building for garment factory workers. As for the export of products, the Government, Development Partners and private sector should not only focus on agricultural products but expand the range of products.

ILO conveyed that progress in skills development is continuing and developing with a timely manner. The industry needs to further emphasize skills development to increase competitiveness.

Ministry of Interior & Council for Agricultural and Rural Development emphasized that the technical working group of Food Security and Nutrition and TWGD&D, need to be strengthened. Further, the UN should fill that gap to address the critical malnutrition situation as well as the mechanism system to implement and monitor social service at the sub-national level.

UNICEF added that studies have shown the importance of social protection and nutrition programmes for human capital and skills development.

WFP put forward the challenge bringing the services provided to those most in need.

➤ **Round 3:**

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports expressed their endorsement of the report but made suggestions to correct the indicator 2.35 and 2.36. In response, **UNESCO** and **UNICEF** expressed their offer to correct figures as provided by the Government.

The Ministry of Rural Development requested a slight change in outcome 2 page 5. MRD requested UN's support on operational plan and development of priority actions as raised in the report.

The Ministry of Industry and Handicraft put forward that priority of UN work should not only be climate change adaptation but also embrace climate change mitigation actions and promote access to cleaner energy and production.

UNIDO sought support from the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft to provide further services to the private sector, and made the suggestion to the climate change alliance to include mitigation into their climate change adaptation strategy.

UNDP's UN-REDD initiative is to address climate change mitigation as well as UN Secretary-General's initiative Energy for All. As for the private sector, government's support is important to advocate for mitigation actions.

The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training requested to expedite the adoption of the strategic trade union law and informed on the importance of providing trainings to trade unions.

ILO expressed their consensus with the point raised by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training.

❖ **Information sharing and dialogue on subsequent UNDAF cycle 2016-2018**

Ms. Sarah Knibbs, UNFPA Deputy Representative provided a presentation on the roll out of subsequent UNDAF cycle 2016-2018, highlighting the alignment with government planning cycle, the UN reform, and the roll out road map with key steps. Government's engagement in the process would be in the period of February-September 2014.

H.E. Chhieng Yanara congratulated UN for its high commitment to align the UNDAF timeline with NSDP and RS III which corresponded to the government's request earlier. His Excellency sought clarification on the UNDAF roll out to start in 2014, two years prior to its start and on UN Country Team's awareness of Post-2015 development agenda.

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren clarified that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be effective as per beginning of 2016. The UNCT is mindful of the global dialogue on post-2015. However, the UN Country Team does not forget the 'unfinished business' of the CMDGs. The UN Country Team proposes to make room in the elaboration of this UNDAF for the newly developed SDGs. As per the timeframe, the UNDAF process formulation needs to be developed in 2014 due to the development and approval of agency Country Programmes in 2015. Lastly, with the UNDAF 2016-2018, areas of joint programming and coherence will be further explored.

❖ **Conclusion**

H.E. Chhieng Yanara has concluded of the discussion that the Royal Government of Cambodia has made suggestions to the submitted UNDAF review summary report and the UNCT has given clear responses and agreed to continue the work on the remaining issues to complete the formulation of the next UNDAF cycle. The RGC is mindful of this important meeting to strengthen partnership between the Royal Government and the UN. He said, there are many priorities and the budget of UN is limited therefore; UN agencies and RGC should sit in and work on those priorities to respond to the need of the people.

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, on behalf of UN system in Cambodia, expressed her appreciation of all comments from line ministries and expressed her thanks to the organization of this interesting and informative meeting. The UN is looking forward to continuing cooperation and she agreed to the next annual review meeting in a year's time. Lastly, she expressed her sincere appreciation of the leadership of H.E Chhieng Yanara in organizing and leading this important meeting.

❖ **Closing Remark**

H.E. Chhieng Yanara expressed his appreciation for the rich and insightful discussion today, and for the clear comments and recommendations from all the participants. He acknowledged that UN

agencies has played an important role in complementing and supporting the efforts of the Royal Government. Moreover, the guidance that emerged from this meeting will lead to concrete actions for implementing the UN programme priorities in 2014-2015. He highly appreciated UN's commitment to align and synchronize the next cycle of the UNDAF with the term of the Royal Government. The RGC is ready to work together with the UN to formulate the next UNDAF 2016-2018.

The meeting was adjourned around 11.50 am in a very cooperative and successful manner.

See Annexes below for the opening and closing remarks of the co-chairs and the link to the presentation.

Prepared by Management of Multilateral and
Foreign Development Assistance Department, CDC and the United Nations

Annex 1: Opening remarks by HE Chhieng Yanara, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of CRDB and Secretary General CDC

- 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.

Annex 2: Opening Remarks by Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, UN Resident Coordinator

Excellency, Chhieng Yanara, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of CRDB and Secretary General 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 for convening and organizing this meeting. This year we combine our review of results for both 2012 and 2013, complementing the report on results in 2011 made earlier, and priorities for 2014, with some perspectives for 2015.

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

While there is no longer an obligation to have a mid-term review *per se*, this year is the mid-point of implementation of the UNDAF 2011-2015, a results-focused framework for our joint efforts in Cambodia aimed to the achievement of national development goals, and thus we appreciate the convening of this meeting at this critical time. The framework combines the work of UN agencies operating in Cambodia and represents a joint commitment to support Government in its implementation of the Rectangular Strategy Phase II, the ongoing National Strategic Development Plan, and the attainment of Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The 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, some illustrations of the depth and breadth of our partnership, include support to:

- raising sustainable agricultural productivity, focusing on poor smallholder farmers and cooperatives;
- further strengthening of the National Industrial Development Policy and trade facilitation;
- multi-pronged efforts to improve food security and decrease malnutrition;
- improved primary school net enrolment rates;
- the development of the second National Action Plan to end Violence Against Women (NAPVAW);
- a range of initiatives addressing the needs of male and female youth in Cambodia;
- the formulation by government of the national Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy and the National Strategic Development Plan;
- the promotion of human rights and the strengthening of capacity of national institutions at central and sub-national level;
- the development of the national social protection policy and social protection advocacy in the ASEAN region; and
- emergency response and support to a joint needs assessment after the 2013 floods.

If we look at delivery, a throughput of around US\$ 80 million was achieved in 2012 and 2013, with an average delivery rate of nearly 70%.

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' as identified through the Busan forum and through the UN's Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, or QCPR, which establishes the UN's commitments and expectations for UN reform at policy, operational and programmatic level. The UN acknowledges and supports the Royal Government of Cambodia's adoption through its Development Cooperation Partnership Strategy of five of the global outcome indicators formulated in Busan, and we aim to remain an active facilitator within the Government's sectoral framework of Technical Working Groups to support these commitments. We therefore take this opportunity to reinforce our commitment to:

- supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia's leadership and ownership under the NSDP,
- focusing on results with an emphasis on the poor and vulnerable, and
- increasing levels of transparency and accountability to each other.

At the 2011 Joint UNDAF Review meeting we made a commitment to continue our discussion about UNDAF implementation through the use of concrete mutual achievements. We look forward to maintaining that tradition of people-centred and results-based discussion in this meeting today. 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 Cambodia going into 2014. 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 work in 2013 to formulate the Australia-Cambodia Disability Joint Programme, and the joint efforts to address climate change through UN-REDD. The UN's coordinated HIV response built around the national HIV & AIDS strategy through the UN's Joint Support Programme is another example. The Spanish MDG Achievement Fund, which supported joint programme of Children Food Security and Nutrition in selected provinces, concluded this year. 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, Youth and HIV & AIDS. In addition, we began a dialogue with government around Vision 2030, the Rectangular Strategy III and the upcoming NSDP centered on emerging (and re-emerging) issues, such as a holistic approach to human capital development, including skills building, urbanization and climate change. Integral to these discussions have also been the government's objective, as noted in the Rectangular Strategy III and the NSDP to implement Public Administration, Public Financial Management, and Legal and Judicial Reforms.

In 2013, the UN remained committed to joint advocacy in three key areas of particular concern for CMDG attainment, namely:

Maternal Health – where we advocated that “No woman should die giving life”

Youth – where we advocated that” Young people are Cambodia's most valuable resource”

Food Security and Nutrition – where we advocated that” Everyone has the right to a healthy and nutritious, hunger-free life”

Post-2015 consultations held in Cambodia in 2013 reinforced these priority areas of advocacy and positioned Cambodia positively in the Post-2015 global dialogue.

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. You may recall our report at the Joint Annual Review meeting in 2011 against these ‘break through’ areas of:

- Nutrition
- Community based drug treatment
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence Programme
- Localising and accelerating progress on the CMDGs
- Social Protection

We hope you will hear today throughout our presentation how this focus has led to specific results in both policy and programme areas.

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,

Mr Pieter van Maaren, will focus on Health and Education,

Ms Wenny Kusuma, will focus on Gender,

Ms Setsuko Yamazaki will focus on Governance, and

Mr Gianpietro Bordignon, will focus on Social Protection.

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, as requested, highlight cross-cutting issues throughout the presentation. You will also hear about challenges faced, as well as priorities for 2014, and to some extent 2015.

In the way forward segment of our agenda, Ms Sarah Knibbs, co-chair of the UNDAF Steering Group will, on the UNCT’s behalf, provide an overview of the plans for the formulation of the future UNDAF for 2016-2018, in line with standing UN guidelines.

To conclude, our common commitment through the UNDAF is to improve the livelihoods of all men, women and children living in Cambodia, 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, 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.

Annex 3: Closing remarks by HE Chhieng Yanara, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of CRDB and Secretary General CDC

- *Excellencies and Colleagues from the Government*
- *Distinguished Representatives of the UN System*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen*

1- I would like to express my appreciation for the rich and insightful discussion that we have had today, and for the clear comments and recommendations from all the participants. We have had active discussions and now it is time to close our meeting. Let me make it clear that the achievements of UNDAF since 2011 - which focuses on supporting the provision of essential social services and strengthening systems of governance - position the UN very well to play an important role in complementing and supporting the efforts of the Royal Government. Moreover, the guidance that emerged from this meeting will lead to concrete actions for implementing the UN programme priorities in 2014-2015.

2- Many interesting and insightful issues have been highlighted through the presentations and discussions this morning. The need for inclusive and diversified economic growth is an area on which we have seen satisfying achievements, especially in the agricultural and rural sectors that can promote improved livelihoods as part of our overall work on social protection, which is another area in which much has been achieved. But of course there remains much to be done, including on climate change resilience. Support to national capacities and systems is key to ensuring that we can strengthen and sustain the progress to date and we learned from our governance discussion of how UN support is central to our work on promoting improved public service delivery, especially for People Living with HIV/AIDS, and also to promoting decent standards of work in the private sector. The proposals to use this experience as a basis to strengthen and extend these approaches to people with disabilities is most welcome and we will learn more about the early results of this work in our next review meeting.

3- The Royal Government of Cambodia is prioritizing the advancement of social services and strengthening human resources and is working with our partners from the UN to achieve our common objectives. Cambodia continues its effort in investing in young people's education and employment for economic growth and sustainable development, so that the education sector will be a priority sector. Besides this, the need to improve maternal health is a challenge that requires our vigilance and continued effort. Significant progress has been made to bring this CMDG on-track but there is still more that we can do together to ensure good care for mothers and new-born children. UN system support to strengthening the health workforce in particular to upgrade skills and competency of midwives through in-service training is just one of many areas in which we must continue to focus our efforts.

4- It is clear that a great deal of effort has been made in order to foster gender mainstreaming across the whole spectrum of Cambodian society. The UN system strongly supports the government's efforts of promoting women and children's rights. Support to the formulation of the next phase of the Neary Rattanak, including costing and resource allocation based on achieving results and the use of appropriate results frameworks, is perhaps the starting point now for our efforts to ensure a coherent and comprehensive response to gender-related challenges.

5- I also wish to take this opportunity to highlight the appreciation made by **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padey Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia** on the important role and assistance of the United Nations in the flood relief in 2011 and 2013, which demonstrate UN competencies and capacities in areas such as livelihoods development, social protection and supporting the delivery of social services.

6- I would also highly appreciate UN commitment to align or synchronize the next cycle UNDAF with the term of the Royal Government. We, in the Royal Government stand ready to work closely with you, Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, UN Resident Coordinator and your team in the UNDAF formulation for the next cycle 2016-2018.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

7- In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the participants and presenters for giving their valuable time to participate in this meeting. I thank H.E. Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, UN Resident Coordinator, her staff and all UN Agency Heads. In addition, I must congratulate my colleagues from the Royal Government for their sustained commitments and inputs that have guided the UN to ensure that its work is relevant to the needs of Cambodia and is results-based. I also express my special thanks to my colleagues at CDC for good preparation of this meeting. I wish you good fortune in implementing the UNDAF in 2014-15. With these words, please allow me to declare this meeting closed.

Annex 4: Presentation on UNDAF Summary Reports: please follow this link:

<http://www.un.org.kh/downloads/Cambodia%20Reports/JointAnnualUNDAFreview12Feb2014presentation.pdf>

http://www.un.org.kh/downloads/Cambodia%20Reports/UNDAF_2016-2018_roadmap_presentation.pdf