

TWG network retreat
21-22 October 2015, Phnom Penh

Closing remarks

Ms Fiona Ramsey, EU Head of Cooperation
and Lead Development Partner Facilitator (LDPF)

H.E Chheng Yanara, Minister attached to the Prime Minister, Secretary General of CDC and CRDB.

Excellencies

Colleagues from the RGC, DPs and civil society

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a few closing remarks on behalf of development partners.

A lot has already been covered by HE Yanara in terms of outlining the structure and content of our discussions and in summarising our common understanding of next steps. I would therefore like to use my remarks to make a few comments on behalf of DPs to highlight some key actions that have been discussed.

Firstly on the Strategic Development Goals, all TWGs this afternoon confirmed that there are both Strategic Development Goals that are primarily relevant to their work and others that are critical to the success of the TWG work in terms of addressing external factors/impacts. For example, sanitation and learning, forestry and climate change.

In addition, the importance of *integrating* the work on the JMIs, the NSDP results framework and the M&E arrangements for the SDGs, was highlighted in a number of discussions.

Development partners fully support keeping the *M&E framework* simple and having the courage to do this. Indicators need to be able to give a picture of trends in the sector and the broader nature of the SDGs (compared to the MDGs) challenges us but, as we have heard from TWGs, it is important to localise the SDGs within the existing NSDP and use the opportunities that that the NSDP mid-term review presents for this process.

A final point on M&E for the SDGs, it is critical that data collected is also available to actors at the local level for their local decision-making processes – particularly as the

sub-national democratic development reform is rolled out through functional transfer from 2016. We therefore encourage TWGs to look at improving *sector - based information management systems* and a few of the group discussions gave some thoughts on how to do this.

Regarding the Industrial development Policy, I can only echo HE Yanara's statement that Ministry staffs working on SDG and IDP issues are present and active in TWGs. This is critical to ensure that parallel process or additional layers are avoided as raised by a number of TWGs in the group discussions.

As we endorse the Guideline on the role and functioning of TWGs, it is important to keep in the forefront of our minds the priority activities of the TWGs, notably:

- i) Alignment, Coordination and Resource mobilisation: DPs encourage further *transparency on the national budget resources*
- ii) Cross-cutting issues and their identification, which may mean *reaching out to other Ministries* to attend TWG
- iii) *Capacity development coordination* and related sector arrangements, and development of long-term systems for supporting the transition to Middle Income Country status.
- iv) Monitoring of progress, including *JMIs and link to data*

It is important to use the structures we already have and which we all collectively invest heavily in; in terms of human and financial resources. The focus on the IDP and the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action bring in a diversity of development actors – making *coordination structures* all the more important for mutual benefit.

We heard that TWGs would like to see the role of TWGs more specifically outlined in the concept paper on the ODA support to the IDP; the recognition of the role that ODA plays in the foundations for the IDP; and importance of *enabling an equitable growth*. The social cluster TWGs highlighted the upstream critical contribution of ODA to *human capital and rural-urban linkages* that provide the basis for improvements in human capital.

Finally, I would like to reflect on the final session focused on development cooperation and partnerships.

DPs are particularly encouraged by the focus on *cross-cutting issues*: the analysis of gender and discussion presented today was very useful in highlighting the inter-linkages between cross-cutting issues and the work of TWGs. DPs will support efforts by TWGs outlined in the discussions today to organise *cross-TWG meetings* such as the ones mentioned by the Agriculture cluster and the Social cluster.

DPs have also noted the need to ensure *good and accurate data in the ODA database* and we will respectively be taking action in this regard. A number of TWGs raised some challenges with the breakdown of sectors in the database, for example number of subsectors in Agriculture with individual TWGs, or with the thematic markers, and we look forward to CDC's leadership in this respect.

The DPs note the deadline of 5 November for comments on all documents distributed, notably the concept note of ODA role in supporting IDP.

To conclude, I would like to echo HE Yanara's thanks to everyone who made this year's TWG Network retreat possible. I would like to thank all of you who have participated and intervened in various roles over the two days. Thank you to CRDB/CDC colleagues who organised and supported the retreat as well as to translators for their work. And finally thanks to my co-chair HE Yanara for his leadership.

DPs look forward to the next meeting of TWG Co-chairs in terms of the upcoming *TWG Partnership and Harmonisation* and to our *future GDCC*.