

**TWG NETWORK RETREAT  
21 October 2015**

**H.E. Chhieng Yanara  
Minister attached to the Prime Minister  
Secretary General, CRDB/CDC**

**Opening Remarks**

Excellencies, colleagues from the Royal Government  
Ms Fiona Ramsey, the Lead Development Partner Facilitator  
All other development partners and TWG co-facilitators  
Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and NGOs  
Ladies and gentlemen

1. It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our annual meeting of the TWG Network. I am pleased to see so many of our Government, development partner and NGO partners able to join us. We are looking forward to 1 and a half days of dialogue, reflection and learning that helps all of us to work more effectively as partners for Cambodia's development. This year sees us move to a location closer to home as we hold our discussions in this wonderful new hotel. Our auspicious location – at the confluence of four rivers – will I hope influence our own work as different development actors coming together to work towards common goals. Our agenda today includes a dinner for all participants and CDC looks forward to hosting all of you. Tomorrow, there is a change to the venue: we will continue our meeting beginning at 8.30 tomorrow at CDC. This change is due to a formal ceremony taking place on Chroy Changvar tomorrow that will mean the bridge is closed. But at CDC we are very well prepared to receive all of you and we look forward to seeing you all at the Palais du Gouvernement tomorrow.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

2. We have an ambitious agenda. It is our intention to discuss a wide range of issues of great significance. These include: the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals; the Industrial Development Policy; and progress in implementing the Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy. We greatly desire your input and cooperation on all these initiatives. Our ultimate objective is to identify and commit to necessary actions for improved partnership and results.

3. In preparing this agenda I was reminded of our Partnership and Harmonisation TWG meeting that took place on 27<sup>th</sup> January. At that time I noted that 2015 would be a particularly busy year, both at the international level – the SDGs, the Financing for Development Conference, and the Climate Change summit - and in Cambodia, as we take the next step of our country's development by preparing the Industrial Development Policy. I therefore wish to use these Opening Remarks this morning to provide some updates and to offer the perspective of the Royal Government on some of these issues.
4. At the global level, partnerships and results have been at centre stage for most of the year. At CDC we spent a good deal of time in the first half of the year preparing the position of the Royal Government for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Financing for Development Conference that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July. More recently, I have just returned from New York, where I was a member of Samdech Prime Minister's delegation to the SDG Summit.
5. The Financing for Development discussion was unique and timely. For the first time, the global community – Governments, civil society and the private sector – came together to discuss sustainable development from the broadest possible perspective. Domestic finance, investment, jobs, capital flows, trade, technology, migration: all of these topics were addressed alongside the more familiar themes of development cooperation. The roles and contributions of all development actors was also considered as the concept of partnership was widened and new alliances were formed.
6. But what did the Royal Government take away from this meeting? How will the Addis Ababa Action Agenda shape our policy and actions here in Cambodia? First, we were pleased to contribute to the discussion on maintaining ODA flows to countries that join the Lower Middle Income classification. We feel this is very important, especially for those countries like Cambodia that are still considered to be Least Developed Countries and require continued support for economic and human development. For this reason the announcements at the conference related to new multilateral funding – notably the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank – was encouraging. Cambodia also welcomed the discussion on the contribution of the private sector as well as efforts to mobilise domestic resources: both of these initiatives are of course central to our own policies on PFM reform and industrialisation.
7. In summary, we felt the issues discussed in Addis Ababa were highly relevant to Cambodia. We are now actively considering measures so that Cambodia can effectively mobilise and manage funding from a wider range of development

finance sources. But the absence of any meaningful commitments, actions and targets to emerge from the Addis meeting is regrettable. But as we move forward, perhaps we must take a longer view and emphasise the inclusive and wide-ranging nature of the dialogue that we hope will establish partnerships and consensus that can deliver concrete results in the years to come.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

8. The Financing for Development discussion was of course strongly linked to the UN Summit to finalise and launch the Sustainable Development Goals. I attended the September meeting in New York as part of Samdech Prime Minister's delegation and we were pleased to have the opportunity to witness and participate in this historic event. The Royal Government feels that Cambodia's participation in the formulation of the new Goals – both Government and civil society – has been effective and influential, both in shaping the global compact as well as ensuring we are ourselves well prepared. We acknowledge our UN partners for their enthusiastic collaboration during the SDG formulation process.
9. Most of you will know that 17 Sustainable Development Goals have been agreed, replacing the Millennium Development Goals to guide global development work for the next 15 years. 169 targets have also been identified and must now be associated with baselines, targets and data sources. As the global work now turns to monitoring we must also begin our national localisation exercise. I am therefore delighted that the Ministry of Planning will present at our meeting today. Amongst the many issues that we need to consider today are:
  - i) Maintaining our focus on the “unfinished business” of the CMDGs. We understand very well that we still need progress on some MDGs such as child malnutrition and provision of clean water and sanitation.
  - ii) Dissemination of the SDGs – as a first step, we must ensure that all development actors can incorporate the SDGs into their own work in a relevant and appropriate manner.
  - iii) Policy consistency – the SDGs must align with our own development priorities. All 17 Goals must be assessed and measured against our national and sector plans.

- iv) Resourcing – to ensure that we mobilise and allocate funding according to these priorities we must integrate costing and resource mobilisation into our budget planning and partnership dialogue processes.
- v) Monitoring – there is an opportunity now to use the SDGs as an opportunity to strengthen and expand our own national monitoring capacities and systems. Today we can begin this discussion and agree next steps.
- vi) Coordination – all development actors must be working together under Government leadership to make their full contribution. For each Goal there needs to be clear roles and responsibilities.

10. The SDG localisation exercise requires great thought and careful preparation. Your views today are most welcome. 17 Goals is of course much more complex than the 8 global Goals agreed at the millennium. Translating and aligning them with national priorities is by no means an easy task. While accepting the SDGs as a coherent global compact, perhaps our starting point at national level must include a reflection on how they fit with our own priorities and who will take the lead for each individual Goal. Once localised, each Goal will need its own national champion with lead responsibility for determining appropriate actions and for coordinating with all other relevant development actors. We accept the SDGs as a set of Goals but we must localise and implement as individual yet inter-related objectives under the overall coordination of the Royal Government. We must also apply lessons acquired over the last 15 years of implementing the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals. The Royal Government is currently preparing a final report that will be submitted to the Committee on Economic and Financial Management prior to presentation to the Cabinet. I believe this highlights the continued strong Government ownership and our commitment to maintaining a strong level of performance in implementing the SDGs by building on the lessons - both positive and negative - of the CMDG period.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

11. Let me now turn to other important work at country level and consider the Industrial Development Policy. The launch of the ten-year IDP has been greeted with a good deal of enthusiasm by development partners and this is very welcome. There is much work to be done and there is an important role for development partners in supporting both Government and the private sector. CDC has significant responsibilities for managing, coordinating and monitoring

the IDP and we have also prepared a note that sets out how we intend to work with development partners. Our role in mobilising, coordinating and recording external support will be presented today. I believe we have some practical proposals that will help us to get started quickly and ensure that the IDP becomes a central part of our partnership dialogue at both collective and bilateral levels.

12. Through the IDP and other strategies of the Royal Government, our partnership work that has been set out in the Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy can be applied so that it can help to drive our national development and secure the desired results. To promote an evidence-based partnership that is effective and focused on achieving results, we have successfully completed a number of activities this year:

- The TWG strengthening exercise has been conducted, including to secure performance commitments for most TWGs
- The TWG Guideline has been revised based on proposals from all TWGs and their members
- The JMIs have been reviewed and their progress documented
- An aid flows analysis has been prepared, including to focus on the resourcing of cross-cutting issues, including gender equality and climate change.

All of these issues will be discussed, together with the forthcoming second round of monitoring the Busan global partnership commitments.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

13. There is much to reflect on as we seek to chart the next steps in our partnering work. I hope that my remarks this morning have gone some way to inform our meeting and to offer insights into the Royal Government's perspectives on a wide range of important partnership policy issues.

14. I trust that our meeting will be constructive and collegial, recognising the unique opportunity for inclusive and informal dialogue that we value in these TWG Network meetings. I now ask Ms Fiona to provide her opening remarks on behalf of development partners.

Thank you