

## **TWG NETWORK RETREAT**

**7 February 2017**

**H.E. Chhieng Yanara**

**Minister attached to the Prime Minister  
Secretary General, CRDB/CDC**

### **Closing Remarks**

Excellencies, colleagues from the Royal Government

Ms. Fiona Ramsey, the Lead Development Partner Facilitator and Ms. Claire, U.N. Resident Coordinator and Alternate Development Partner Facilitator

All other development partners and TWG co-facilitators

Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and NGOs

Ladies and gentlemen

1. After two full days of discussion our meeting has come to a close. I would like to thank each of you for your participation and hard work. The final inputs from our Government colleagues and development partners are most welcome and I think represent very well the balanced and constructive discussion we have had. I thank Fiona for her closing remarks and final observations on behalf of our development partners.
2. In my opening remarks yesterday I observed that we would “address partnership issues that are at the very centre of our work on national development”. We confirmed our commitment to the principle of “no one left behind”. And after our detailed and comprehensive discussion I think we can now also say that “no issue has been left behind”.
3. I believe we have discussed issues of great importance, issues that will determine our future success as we continue our journey together. I wish to use my closing remarks to complement the observations that Fiona has shared with us and to outline how we may take our work forward in a way that will justify our efforts at this meeting.
4. Our starting point must be the NSDP Mid-Term Review. Our national plan. We all welcomed this very good report prepared by my colleagues from the Ministry of Planning. They identified for us 7 key areas that need to be prioritised in our future implementation:

1. Poverty reduction and inclusive growth,

2. Promoting Agriculture,
  3. Competitiveness,
  4. Migration and Urbanization
  5. Climate change and Deforestation,
  6. Governance, and
  7. Human resource development
5. One of the major themes of yesterday's discussion was prioritisation. I suggest that the MOP has indicated for us what these priorities should be. By incorporating these 7 key areas into our sector programmes, our thematic and cross-cutting work and our major reforms, I believe we can begin to move away from an extensive and general ordering of priorities towards something that is more strategic, targeted and achievable.
6. In this way, we can then use existing mechanisms to support improved results-based programming. The on-going Program Budgeting roll-out, which is part of the PFM reform, is the mechanism for achieving this. Program budgeting will integrate priority issues into costed sector programmes and the national budget. Results and indicators will be developed as part of this process that are based on these priorities. As is the case with the JMIs, we will then emerge with a set of results and indicators that are derived from – and fully linked to - our development priorities. Across all sectors and programmes, this monitoring framework can then be incorporated into an NSDP that truly represents our priorities while at the same time accommodating our capacity constraints. We cannot do everything. We cannot measure everything. And nor should we try.
7. An additional and related theme that was covered yesterday concerned sequencing. I believe sequencing – and phasing - applies in particular to the localisation of the CSDGs. Claire spoke of SDG “accelerators” – the selective actions taken now that will have wider benefits and impact across other Goals. Again, the 7 key areas identified in the NSDP review perhaps provide the basis for taking this approach forward. They establish a common foundation for the next national planning cycle that will fully integrate the CSDGs into the NSDP.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

8. I have listened closely to everything you have said. And I hope that I have now set out an approach in which the useful suggestions made yesterday can be introduced into our work to:

- promote prioritisation;
- establish a streamlined approach to monitoring that can be the basis for continued expansion and strengthening;
- inform the strategic sequencing of priority programmes and reforms; and
- ensure the localisation of the CSDGs into an integrated and comprehensive – yet manageable – national plan.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

9. Our commitment to improved working arrangements has been made very clear. Despite a rapidly changing development context I believe our partnership is healthier and stronger than ever. Our joint efforts on the development of many JMIs is evidence of this. Given the fruitful nature of our discussions today and the new insights and consensus we have identified during our meeting, I am pleased to accommodate an extension to the deadline for finalising the JMIs. This will enable further improvements to be made, taking account of the NSDP review's 7 priority areas, our discussions on the Middle Income Country transition and, in some cases, the need for greater collaboration across ministries. My office will contact you this week to confirm the details of the extension.

10. We have also acknowledged today that the resources necessary to secure our transition to Higher-Middle Income Country status will require new partnerships, especially with the private sector. We also agreed that there is an important continued role for ODA and we therefore need to consider how we can use external cooperation more strategically in support of priority areas, especially supporting institutional reforms; strengthening our national infrastructure; and ensuring a conducive environment for private sector development. We also need to consider how we accommodate meaningful and practical working arrangements with the private sector in preparation for the next planning cycle. The Development Finance Assessment has started this work. Across individual ministries and agencies there are established responsibilities to strengthen the management of individual flows. Our next step is to establish central responsibilities to manage development finance holistically and strategically. After reflection with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, my personal approach is to hand over the overall management of long-term development finance policy to MEF or to the National Committee on Economic and Financial Policy. This will be the subject of a Cabinet discussion in the coming weeks. Your inputs today will help to shape that discussion.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

11. Our TWG Network is a place where we come together to listen, to share, and to learn. I believe we have shown during our meeting that there is much value in this approach. We can all be assured that our TWGs continue to serve us well. Our contributions to the NSDP review have been ably facilitated by the TWG mechanism and we have all acknowledged the value of the JMIs in bringing us together to identify and agree the most strategic and high-impact actions that are needed to deliver results. As we look towards the next phase of our national development, we have together forged a partnership that is well positioned to support our economic transition and to ensure that Cambodia continues to achieve its ambitious development goals.
12. We are grateful for your inputs and insights. And for your strong commitment to the principles and practices of partnership. We are all committed to results.
13. Once again, I thank all of you for making this such a successful meeting. I am particularly grateful to all of our session Chairs and presenters; to our hard-working translators; and to my own staff at CRDB/CDC who have been working hard for many weeks to prepare for this important meeting. All of our efforts have been worthwhile. I look forward to our future collaborations but, for now, all that remains is for me to wish you all a safe journey back to Phnom Penh.