

## **TWG NETWORK RETREAT**

**6 February 2017**

**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 and Ms Claire, UN 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. It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the TWG Network meeting. I am pleased to see so many of our Government, development partner and NGO partners here with us today. It has been some time since we last met and I am delighted that we have so much good progress to discuss.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

2. We have a very important agenda. Over two days of discussion we will address partnership issues that are at the very centre of work on national development. We greatly desire your input and contribution as we continue to shape policy, prepare plans and implement activities that advance the goals of the Rectangular Strategy and the NSDP. Our intention over the next two days is to learn from the evidence that will be presented to us, to listen to one another, and then to jointly commit to renewed collaboration and purpose.
3. Our work here can be thought of as two sides of the same coin. Looking back and looking forward. On one side we have an opportunity to learn the lessons of experience: what has worked well? What challenges remain? This applies to our work on the NSDP review and on the Joint Monitoring Indicators. On the other side of this coin is the need to look to the future, to apply these lessons, to anticipate and to plan. This concerns our work on SDG localisation and the Development Finance Assessment. This is very important now that Cambodia has been reclassified as a Lower Middle Income Country. We can all see that this will bring many new opportunities as Cambodia is recognised as a manufacturing destination for the region and for the world. But there are also challenges: the SDG agenda promises that we will leave no-one behind; the nature of development problems will become

more complex as economy grows; our current sources of development finance will change - some will grow while others may decrease. The future will bring many challenges and opportunities and we must be ready. The Royal Government is now looking actively at these issues of economic transition and social advancement and we are committed to re-newing our partnerships so that our progress can be consolidated and sustained.

4. The Ministry of Planning's work on the NSDP Mid-Term Review represents a very solid and far-reaching exercise that positions us well to understand what must now be done. I very much look forward to our discussion this morning as we consider how to use these findings for the SDG localisation exercise as well as work in sector, reform and thematic programmes. The Development Finance Assessment, which was led by CDC during the second half of 2016, begins to consider future funding opportunities and partnerships. It considers institutional capacities and how Cambodia can become better prepared to lead and manage the next phase of its development. Together with the work you have completed and shared with us concerning your progress on implementing the Joint Monitoring Indicators, I am very pleased that we have such a strong evidence base to share and discuss during our meeting.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

5. At the global level, we observe a highly dynamic and fast-changing situation. While we focus on effective development principles and practices in Cambodia we therefore also need to be mindful of the wider context that will affect our work and our partnership. The wider global and regional context tells us that we must learn from the experiences of other Middle Income Countries if we are to avoid the "traps" that have obstructed their development paths. We also need to be mindful of current economic conditions that directly affect our own performance as an open economy that looks to become ever more integrated with the global economy. As we begin to talk about the SDGs and development financing, we need to look closely from both the perspectives of the domestic and external sectors as well as the public and private sector. We therefore begin our meeting today by reflecting on the outcome of the second High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership on Development Effectiveness. Our work on the Development Finance Assessment, our final plenary session tomorrow, will consider the wider perspective of development finance and partnership.
6. The Busan commitments on Development Effectiveness are seen as the mechanism for establishing and strengthening partnerships across the public and private sectors that are necessary to mobilise the funding and effort to implement the Sustainable Development Goals agenda. Globally the requirement is for trillions instead of billions

of Dollars. To move this work forward, the second High-level Meeting on Development Effectiveness took place in Nairobi in December last year. The main message coming out of the High-level Meeting is that financing far in excess of conventional development assistance is needed. We each need to focus on honouring our own individual commitments while also undertaking to embrace a wider array of development partners in order to maximise and leverage our own development impact. This message is highly relevant to Cambodia as we look to the next phase of our development and the importance of working with all development actors.

7. It is therefore fitting that after a brief reflection on the global work our agenda will turn directly to the NSDP mid-term review and the localisation of the SDGs. This is perhaps the reflective part of our agenda. Tomorrow we will then consider the revision of the JMIs which set forward-looking goals that help to galvanize our partnership and focus our actions on priority goals.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

8. I trust that our meeting will be constructive and focusing on finding a consensus on how we can move forward together. Our TWG Network meetings provide us with a unique opportunity for inclusive dialogue and I trust that we will work together to ensure our objectives for the meeting are met. I now ask Ms Fiona to provide her opening remarks on behalf of development partners.