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Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Yanara CHHIENG**  
**Minister Attached to the Prime Minister**  
**Royal Government of Cambodia**

at

**The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**  
**General Debate of the High-Level Segment**

New York  
10-19 July 2017

Mr. Chairman

1. I would like to express, on behalf of my delegation our high appreciation for this opportunity to contribute to this General Debate.
2. With over two decades of growth and poverty reduction, Cambodia has made a remarkable transformation that places it amongst those countries with the highest level of achievement in implementing the Millennium Development Goals. As a newly-classified Lower-Middle Income Country, Cambodia is now ready to build on these foundations. There is commitment at the highest levels of my Government and we are currently working to contextualize, localize and sequence the global agenda with additional goal on demining. So we embrace the 2030 Agenda with confidence and optimism.
3. Our own national planning processes provide the institutional setting for localizing and prioritizing the SDGs. It is in this context that I wish to make some specific observations and raise some issues for the consideration of our esteemed colleagues gathered here today.
4. Our recently completed review of the national plan has identified a number of challenges that are relevant to the SDG localization process. Chief amongst them are: poverty reduction and inclusive growth, including through the transformation of the rural economy; competitiveness and human resource development; migration and urbanization; and climate change and sustainability.
5. Underlying all of these issues, my Government understands the need to continue to strengthen institutions, to focus on economic competitiveness and – in keeping with the commitment to Leave No-One Behind – to address inequality and exclusion.
6. Mr. Chairman, I believe these observations are highly relevant to our discussion today as they affect many Middle Income Countries. Since it is this group of countries where the majority of the world's poor now live, I believe this General Debate is the appropriate setting to take note of these challenges and to flag them for further High-Level discussion at a later time. For countries such as Cambodia, that remains a Least Developed Country, we are particularly concerned about exclusion and vulnerability even as we see rising average levels of income.
7. Two other issues are also of great importance to Cambodia and, I believe, to many other UN member states. I therefore wish to bring them to your attention. The first concerns monitoring systems and capacities. Leaving No-One Behind requires two things: first, better information on who the poorest and most vulnerable are; and, second, an improved understanding of the dynamics of exclusion that can then inform policy interventions. Investments in improved monitoring and information systems are critical to ensuring inclusive implementation and achieving a zero rate of poverty by 2030.
8. Second is the issue of financing. Cambodia has recently completed an assessment of its medium-term development finance options. Domestic resources will clearly take a lead role in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Yet we also need to build partnerships with other development actors, both public and private. Other countries clearly have this need too yet I feel this aspect our work at the global level is lagging behind. So, I strongly encourage a more dedicated effort to be placed on moving forward the Financing for Development agenda, including to more closely involve new partners from the global South and from the private sector.
9. While noting the changing global development landscape, Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Cambodia stands ready and is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you Mr. Chairman!