



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. TUON THAVRAK

SECRETARY OF STATE, MINISTRY OF PLANNING

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

AT THE

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2021

"Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

(13-15 JULY 2021)

MR. PRESIDENT, EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES!

Cambodia has been fully committed to realizing the SDGs as reflected in Cambodia's VNR 2019. Despite concerted efforts at all levels, our impressive socio-economic achievements have been set back by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, severely affecting all dimensions of sustainable development.

Since 1994, Cambodia recorded the lowest economic growth in 2020, contracted by 3.1 percent. The impacts, especially potential increase in poverty associated with job losses, could have been even worst had there not been Government's timely response measures in COVID-affected sectors.

In this unanticipated circumstance, the deadline of the SDGs in 2030 may need to be revisited with thorough re-assessment in all dimensions and aspects including the timeframe, strategic directions, action plans, and resources.

Within this fast-evolving context, the Royal Government of Cambodia has launched a series of key interventions to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate the collateral damage in COVID-affected sectors with a whole of government approach as well as a whole of society approach. Nine phases of COVID 19 response measures in health, social and economic sectors have so far been employed to prevent the transmission of the virus, sustain the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, and to maintain macro-economic stability.

To build back better, the Royal Government has devised the Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan 2021-2023 based upon a three-pronged approach strategy: revival, reforms, and resilience and a national strategic plan on 'how to live with COVID-19', aimed at building an inclusive and effective path for promoting all dimensions of sustainable development and achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Government is also committed to pursue the followings:

- Prioritize public expenditures towards sectors related directly to the SDGs, including education, health, social protection, agriculture, and infrastructure;
- Promote digitalization and the role and dynamism of the private sector to fulfill the financing need to achieve the SDGs and ensure the continuity of ODA, especially financial assistance towards sustaining the momentum of the SDGs, as well as strengthen South-South and Triangular cooperation in this endeavour;
- Continue to promote and support the principle of globalization and multilateralism, for equitable distribution of its benefits, especially providing preferential treatment to developing countries for expanding greater openness of international trade.

I thank you.