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National AIDS Authority

Speech

H. E. Senior Minister **Ieng Mouly**,

Chairman of the NAA and Chairman of the CCC

In the Opening Session of the

**National Consultation Workshop on Updated situation and response
Analysis and the Development of the National Strategic Plan for
Comprehensive and Multi-sectoral Response to HIV and AIDS (NSP-IV)**

January 19, 2015

Tonle Bassak Restaurant II, Phnom Penh

- *Excellencies and Lokchumteav members of the Policy Board*
- *Ms. Marie-Odile Edmond, UNAIDS Country Director*
- *Excellencies, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of government, Institutions, development partners and civil societies*
- *Representative of Key Affected Populations*
- *Ladies and gentlemen consultants and experts*

First of all, on behalf of the National AIDS Authority, I would like to express my great pleasure to be invited to open the National Consultation Workshop on Updated situation and response Analysis and the Development of the National Strategic Plan for Comprehensive and Multi-sectoral Response to HIV and AIDS (NSP-IV) today.

I would also like to extend my warm welcome and profound gratitude to all participants amidst your busy schedule to come to share ideas in looking backward on what we have done in the past five years and **more importantly to raise your recommendations on our count down in common pathways to end HIV transmission by 2020. This target is 10 years ahead of the global target which aims at 2030.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

In his meeting on December 6, 2014, with Mr. Steve Kraus, Regional Director of UNAIDS in Asia and the Pacific Region, **Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister** of Cambodia attributed the success of Cambodia in the fight against HIV/AIDS to the contribution of the Cambodian people from all walks of lives. He strongly affirms that as far as we concerned about HIV and AIDS response, Cambodia is shaking from toes to head. To achieve the 90% tested, 90% treated and 90% viral suppression targets, we need the inputs of duty

bearers and more importantly right holders in designing a sustainable response to HIV and AIDS for 2015-2020 within the broader context of development of Cambodia. For moving our commitment over the next five years term of NSP IV, may I suggest three main contexts for your consideration.

1. From more than two decades of HIV and AIDS response where more 600 MUSD has been mobilized, it is an imperative to shift away from the paradigm of HIV exceptionalism and architecture, **thereby taking HIV out of isolation and towards broader multi-sectoral health, development and social justice agendas.** In this regard, we need to capitalize on **Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister's** appeal for all government agencies, development partners, private sector, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to **strictly adhere to the priorities set out in the NSDP 2014-2018 that is the road map for the implementation of the Rectangular Strategy Phase III.**
2. There should be a shift in the mind-set about the financing future of the response - adopting strategic investment thinking that **resources for HIV are investments, not expenditures** and recognizing the increasing use of domestic resources, so that political choices around AIDS are being made within domestic financing discussion. In this regard, as Chairman of the National AIDS Authority, I have the honor to inform that we received the approval from the Minister of Economy and Finance to declare here that the Royal Government **will invest 3.7 MUSD** from 2015 to 2017 for ARV as for contribute to the Global Fund Concept Note development .
3. With remarkable decrease of external support in the next coming years, we need to drawing attention to making our NSP IV lighter and more strategic, while focusing resources on achieving results and **"doing more with less"**. We need to be backed up with sound evidence to **advocate for more targeted and less generalized interventions.** In this regard, we need also to **align, harmonize and synergize** with the following relevant sectors:
 - On health sector, with high quality contributions, enthusiasm and hard work from Technical units and all stakeholders including CSOs, Key affected Populations, NCHADS has gone into the successful review and updating of the Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and STI Prevention and Care in the Health Sector in Cambodia 2015-2020. This plan has an ambitious vision to eliminate of new HIV infections in Cambodia and the highest quality of prevention, care and treatment services for HI, AIDS and STI within the health sector.

- On non-health sectors, we need to consider strategic collaboration with relevant sectors and institutions to reach out unreached populations with prevention, behavior change communication, impact mitigation, economic strengthening, livelihood support and nutrition, reflecting the need for a more holistic approach to PLHIV care and support. These are National Authority Combating Drugs, Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation, Ministry of Interior (both Public Security and Local Administration), Ministry of National Assembly-Senate Relations and Inspections and Ministry of Information.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

From the above mentioned backdrop, today, we are looking for your opinions in validating the findings on the progress seven strategies of NSPIII (2011-2015) over the past 5 years.

On Situation analysis, we would like to learn on the following issues: What are the main determinants of HIV? What are the main obstacles to an effective response? What are the main opportunities? What is the impact?

On response Analysis, we would like to get your opinions on: What is working? What is not working? What is relevant and what is not anymore? What has been missed? What should continue? What needs to be expanded? What needs to be oriented? What should be dropped? What should be initiated?

On the development of NSPIV: We would like to have your active contribution to collectively formulate the vision, the mission, the goal and the objectives. It is to remind you that by **defining our goal more clearly, by making it seem more manageable and less remote, we help all people to see it, to draw hope from it, and to move irresistibly towards it.** A particular attention must be paid to consider how to translate the 7 points policy directive of the RGC that has been issued in December 2013 into concrete actions in different sectors at national and sub-national levels. Innovative approaches should be mounted to track on cases that escape from our regular system and our routine network. More importantly, we count on all of you to contribute to the development of guiding principles for the NSPIV, especially in the context of country ownership, mutual accountability and shared responsibilities.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me introduce another important issue for consideration **“Our bottom line starts with our front line”**. What does it mean?

The meaning is that we cannot achieve the targets of NSPIV without supporting the frontline workers, the Grass root Volunteers who will be assigned and have their skills upgraded to work with **Community Based Prevention Care and Support (CBPCS)** program in target areas all over the country. To ensure that grass root level got appropriate support.

1. We should make sure that we have the resources for decentralized level!
 2. We should make sure the grass root network works!
- On resources for decentralized level, I would like to inform you that on the effort for decentralization and de-concentration of the Royal Government of Cambodia, funds for social issues such as mother and child health and hygiene have been allocated to commune level through the Commune Investment Plan. In line with this innovative approach, with the design of HIV concept note, the National AIDS Authority plan to incorporate HIV/AIDS in the CDP/CIP (Commune Development Plan/ Commune Investment Plan) so that 1,621 commune across the country can strategically allocate some funding to the most needed households.
 - On making sure that the grass root network really works, may I ask all of you to find innovative design whereby Community-based Directly Observed Treatments (C-DOT) of TB Program, Community Support Volunteer (CSV) of HIV/AIDS and Village malaria worker (VMW) of Malaria Program can be harmonized with Village Health Support Group (VHSG) at grass-root level. Moreover, we need to make ensure that those volunteers work with Health Care Workers at Health Center level and with Women and Child Focal Point at commune level.

Before concluding my speech, we strongly believe that our joint efforts today in the National Consultation Workshop on Updated situation and response Analysis and the Development of the National Strategic Plan for Comprehensive and Multi-sectoral Response to HIV and AIDS (NSP-IV) will contribute to a great deal in lifting the poorest segment of the society out of poor health conditions and will enable them to catch up with other groups in benefiting the country economic growth while improving their own productivity and their access to better employment.

I would like to congratulate you for the organization of this important consultative meeting and I wish you all to have a robust discussion and to successfully update Situation and Response Analysis of NSPII and to develop a NSP IV.

I hope that engagement and the commitment generated from this consultative workshop will enable us to proactively invest your respective resources to contribute for reasonable design of NSPIV. As for supporting the deep reform in public sector of the RGC and also to **improve social accountability and local governance**, I would like to appeal all of you as **Duty Bearers and as Right Holders to work out in this exercise on how we can jointly and regularly monitor the progress against the targets in your respective areas of work**. This would ensure our progress against 90-90-90 targets.

I would like to wish Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies, Gentlemen and all participants with the four gems of Buddhist blessing—longevity, nobility, healthiness and strength. I would like to declare the **Opening of National Consultation Workshop on Updated situation and response Analysis and the Development of the National Strategic Plan for Comprehensive and Multi-sectoral Response to HIV and AIDS (NSP-IV)** from now on.

Thank You.