

Speech of H.E Ieng Mouly, Senior Minister, Chair of the National AIDS Authority in the Validation workshop on the Global AIDS Response Progress Report to United Nations

March 21st, 2014

Hotel Cambodiana

- Excellencies
- Ms. Marie-Odile Edmond, UNAIDS Country Director,
- Mr. Tim Vora, Executive Director of HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen Representatives of Ministries and Institutions of the Royal Government of Cambodia
- Ladies and Gentlemen Representatives of Development Partners and Civil Society
- Ladies and Gentlemen Representatives of People living with HIV/AIDS and Most at Risk Population
- Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen members of the Workshop today,

First of all, on behalf of the National AIDS Authority and myself, I would like to warmly welcome Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen to the validation workshop and thank you very much for taking your busy time to participate in this important workshop.

Today we all about 100 people, representing Government Ministries and Institutions, Development Partners, civil society, people living with HIV/AIDS and most at risks population are gathering to discuss and to complement one another on the quantitative and qualitative information/data on the 32 indicators reflected to the progress of HIV/AIDS response to Cambodia that we need to develop the report to United Nations by March 31st, 2014.

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen, since 2000 the world has set Millennium Development Goals; Cambodia has sent five progress reports on HIV/AIDS response to UN in every two years. The last report was sent in March 2012. Thus, in every two years, UN has the objective to monitor the progresses of this important works for all country members.

From 2012 to 2013, Cambodia has spent about 100 Millions USD to implement programs, project activities and interventions in health sector and other sectors in order to achieve the three zero goal.

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen, you have already known that data are score. Data are evaluation. Data are result. From data we can make a conclusion to justify the projects and programs that have been implemented. However, the appropriate conclusion could be made only based on comprehensive data which support the right reflection so that we could make correct and effective decision. For instance, an elephant is not four columns neither broom nor fan. Should all things be counted as an elephant? Therefore, data are power. I strongly request Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen and Representatives from Government institutions, Civil Society, People Living with HIV/AIDS and Most at Risk Population to discuss and to exchange validity data/information from references and service users as well as those who expose to HIV transmission.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to let you know that we set five National Strategic Plan Working Groups to be responsible as follows:

- Group 1: Prevention, Treatment and Continuum of Care
- Group 2: Supporting Environment, Human Rights and Policies
- Group 3: Impact Mitigation of HIV/AIDS
- Group 4: Leadership, Communication and Development Synergy
- Group 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to achieve goal of Three Zeros “Zero Transmission, Zero Discrimination and Zero Death”, the five Working Groups are to take seven points policy set by the Council of Ministers under leadership of **Samdech Aka Moha Sena Padey Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of Cambodia to give directions to all HIV/AIDS response programs for their assigned responsibilities.

Among five Working Groups, Group1 covers 25 indicators of 32. Anyhow workshop participants will be divided in 10 discussion groups according to 10 objectives of UN so that participants have to examine in detail for each objective. Separately Representatives of Government Institutions and Ministries to receive qualitative data for NCPI part A about 30 pages (National Commitment Policy Instrument). Also Representatives of Civil Society, People Living with HIV/AIDS and key population will contribute completing qualitative data for NCPI part B which is similar to part A.

I understand that, in the discussion, we will see differences between opinions provided by participants from different sources, expertise or information from which we have received for 32 indicators. In this regard, may I suggest Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen to provide opportunity to Representatives of People Living with HIV and Most at Risk Population inform us about real situation at grassroots both receiving services of prevention and treatment as well as social support services.

I expect that relevant information/data, which are sensitive, will be examined, analyzed, evaluated and concluded with sense of balance and wisdom because we understand clearly that a united national voice is the strongest point that can not be replaced. That does not mean we tolerate and forgive those who committed mistakes. These are strengthening good governance with mutual accountability not only for donors and receivers of financing but also mutual accountability for policy makers, program formulation officials and especially beneficiaries.

I strongly expect that through today consultative workshop, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen both Governmental Institutions and Development Partners who are representing 5000 HIV/AIDS workers will provide important inputs to contribute to avoid tragedy of HIV/AIDS, at least 6 people killed and other 3 newly infected everyday.

I would like to thank you very much for important efforts of all advisors/consultants that have committed and spent their valuable time to work in limited time. I express my sincere thanks to UNAIDS M&E unit that closely cooperate for these difficult works.

Finally, I would like to wish you all good health, strength, cleverness and all four Buddha wishes, Nobility, Longevity, Healthiness and Strength and also appreciate very much for all organizing committee members and Global Fund that have contributed and supported to this important workshop today.

I would like to declare the validation workshop on Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting opened from now on.

Thank you!