



National AIDS Authority

Speech of **H.E Ieng Mouly , Senior Minister
Chairperson of the National AIDS Authority**
in
Plenary Session of the National AIDS Authority

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The Council of Ministers, Municipality of Phnom Penh

Excellencies, Secretary of State, members of the National AIDS Authority
Excellencies, Chairperson of the Provincial AIDS Committees
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, leaders and officials of the National AIDS
Authority
Ladies and Gentlemen, representative of the Secretariat of the Provincial AIDS
Committees
Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of development partners and civil society

First of all, I warmly welcome and thank Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen
for your commitment to attend the **Plenary meeting of the National AIDS
Authority** today amidst your busy schedule.

Referring to the agenda of the meeting today, the main objective is to present the
Fourth National Strategic Plan for Comprehensive and Multi-sectoral response to
HIV and AIDS. I am looking forward to see your feedbacks from this plenary
session of the National AIDS Authority and subsequently we will submit this
National Strategic to the Royal Government for endorsement. Hence, we will
discuss together on the implementation of the plan with the emphasis on the
development and implementation of policies, the mobilization of resources, the
institutional arrangement at national and sub-national level and the monitoring
and evaluation of this plan.

Taking this opportunity of superb occasion, allow me to summarize the situation
and response analysis of HIV and AIDS in Cambodia over the past two decades
as the following:

- Over the past 25 years, our country succeeded to mobilize resources with
more than US \$ 630 million have been spent to respond to HIV and AIDS
including more than US \$ US \$200 million donated from the Global Fund.
As a result, in 2010, the Royal Government of Cambodia was awarded by

United Nations in achieving the Millennium Development Goal 6 related to the response to HIV AIDS.

- In the past five-year, an estimated budget expenditure of \$230m have been spent to implement seven strategies of NSPIII. From 2011 to 2014, new HIV infection dropped from 1055 to 694 while estimated death cases is reduced from 3610 to 2783. HIV prevalence continues to decline from 0.81% to 0.67% among people aged 15-49 Years old (based on AEM estimation). Amidst this obvious success and the lessons learned over the past 5 years, the context of HIV and AIDS has dramatically changed. With the reduction of external support and other game changers, national leaders, policy makers, programmers and other actors were obliged to spend a lot of time to in developing a common plan using more targeted interventions with a preparation of a more strategic and sustainable HIV response.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Referring to the meeting agenda, today Members of the National AIDS Authority will discuss the Fourth National strategic plan to respond to HIV and AIDS. In order to start up the deliberation, I would like to offer the following perspectives for your consideration:

1) While the development partners start reducing external support after our country brilliant success, it is an imperative for us to **mobilize our own national resources to bridge the funding gap**. More importantly it is the very moment that we need to strengthen the **country's ownership**, beside mutual accountability together with development partners in the HIV and AIDS response.

2) It is time for us to **start up preparing a sustainable and long term response**. We are shifting from a sprint to a marathon. It is no longer a 100 or 200 meter battle. In this regard, when development partners can no longer afford to support NGOs, CBOs an volunteers to reach out Most At Risk Populations (MARPs) and PLHIV, what should national and sub-national level do to fill this gap? Along with the decentralization, how shall we arrange our monitoring and evaluation system so that each commune will work closely with health center to be responsible for the prevention, care and provision of social protection services to Most At Risk Populations (MARPs) and the PLHIV at the greatest need? Each Commune council and health center will be the ultimate responsible for the HIV and AIDS indicators at their respective assigned location. Fourth National Strategic Plan for Comprehensive and Multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS brings us to a turning point where we need to own our situation and prepare ourselves to rationalize national and sub-national mechanism for a sustainable response to HIV and AIDS.

3) **Paradigm and architecture shift** for a comprehensive and multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS with emphasis on **key priority sectors to reflect health, development and social justice guiding principles.**

4) **The shift of the mindset from expenditure to investment.** In deed AIDS response requires expenditure. However, we need to shift our perception that it is rather an investment for the future generation. It is to remind that as for political decision, the HIV and AIDS has been integrated into NSDP2014-2018 and a 3-year rolling plan. In this point, too, I would like to remind that in my capacity as Chairperson of the National AIDS Authority, I did submitted a proposed budget to the Royal Government and the Royal Government has committed to contribute use of 3 million 7 hundred thousand US dollars for contributions to the purchase of ART drugs from 2015 to 2017.

5) **Assuring coherence and consistency** between the design and the implementation of policies, the establishment of national and sub-national mechanisms and the monitoring and evaluation. In this regard, for instance, to carry out the Government's 7-point policy for AIDS response, we should be highly responsible for allocating resources at national and sub-national mechanisms to monitor and evaluate interventions directed by this policy. Shortly, after this opening remark, we will listen to the progress report of the implementation of the policy presented by the Secretariat of NAA.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Over the next five years, the National AIDS Authority (NAA) continues its mandated role to lead, manage, coordinate and facilitate the national multispectral and comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS in Cambodia as stated in the NSP IV. More efforts will be spent to rationalize the use of human and financial resources in key sectors to address key areas to reach key affected populations and those who are in greatest need.

HIV infections may not disappear in the foreseeable future, but the AIDS epidemic can be ended as a country health and social threat. To achieve this by 2020, the number of new HIV infections will need to be virtually eliminated by 2020.

To reach this visionary goal after three decades of the most serious epidemic in living memory, Cambodia will need to use the powerful tools available from the scientific breakthroughs and the lessons learned over the past, hold one another accountable for 90-90-90 targets achievement by 2020 (90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status - 90% of all people living with HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy - 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral

therapy will have durable viral suppression) - and **make sure that no one is left behind.**

I would take this superb opportunity to Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, members of the National AIDS Authority, Chair of Provincial and Municipal AIDS Committee , Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of Development partners and civil society for active contribution to the process of implementing the National Strategic Plan for Comprehensive and Multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS over the past five years with dedication , motivation, experience sharing and contribution of your valuable time to achieve HIV and AIDS targets as well as the attainment of the goals of the Rectangular Strategy III of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Once again, thank you very much for your presence today. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I announce the Opening of the **Plenary session of the National AIDS Authority** for the year 2015 from now on.

Thank You