



National AIDS Authority

**Remarks by
H. E. Mr. Ieng Mouly
Senior Minister in charge of special mission
and Chairman of the National AIDS Authority**

In the Opening Session of the
**Dialogue on—Measuring the Sustainability of the National HIV and
AIDS response: Applying the Sustainable Index and Dashboard**
October 20, 2015
Intercontinental Hotel, Phnom Penh

- Excellencies and Lokchumteav
- Dr. Robert Newman, Country Director of US CDC,
- Mrs. Marie-Odile Edmond, Country Director, UNAIDS
- Mrs. Carrie Whitlock, USG Interagency PEPFAR Coordinator, Cambodia
- Excellencies, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of government institutions, embassies, development partners and civil societies
- Representatives of Key affected Populations
- Ladies and gentlemen consultants and experts

First of all, I would like to express my great pleasure to be invited to open the **Dialogue on—Measuring the Sustainability of the National HIV and AIDS response:Applying the Sustainable Index and Dashboard(SID)** today. I would also like to extend my warm welcome and profound thanks to Excellencies, Lokchumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen who come from health and non-health sectors along with representatives of Key Populations to share ideas on how to apply a new tool called SID (Sustainable Index and Dashboard) and measuring our country preparedness towards sustaining HIV and AIDS response. This exercise is an independent assessment of sustainability across multiple domains related to HIV and AIDS. We will figure out the success and challenges in key areas of SID namely:

1. Governance, Leadership, and Accountability
2. National Health System and Service Delivery
3. Strategic Investments, Efficiency, and Sustainable Financing
4. Strategic Information

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me recall the recent speech of our Prime Minister Samdech Akak Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen used at the U.N. General Assembly at the moment that the world is committed to move from Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Although, he called on developed nations to fulfill their pledges to commit at least 0.7 percent of their annual income to foreign aid, Samdech pinpointed out that over the past two decades, Cambodia has made remarkable transformations, especially in securing full peace, strong political stability and improved public security, with high economic growth averaging 7.7 percent per annum and that our country will become a lower middle income country by 2016.”

I would like also to take this opportunity to recall you that for more than two decades of HIV and AIDS response where more 600 MUSD has been mobilized. Referring to the last National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA) report, it is acknowledged that the RGC contributes 10% of total funding AIDS expenditure which is translating in \$0.35 per capita of domestic funding for AIDS in 2012, compared to \$0.10 per capita as the regional median (range: \$0-19), and 0.03\$ per capita among LIC (Low Income Country) in the region.

Let us examine the situation where we have been depending (90%) on external support.

In this regard, many of us remember that in May 2014, GFATM budget of \$72M which has been planned for 2 years (2014 and 2015) must be extended for additional 18 months of implementation. We were facing unprecedented challenges. To cope with the situation we were forced to adopt new attitude and a new approach to do things that we could not “do before “. In the Health sector, NCHADS was taking the lead in developing SOP for prevention care and treatment for prioritizing the priorities. The CCC announces the budget cuts to save the resources. The Steering Committee was formed to develop the concept note with the NFM format. Program Management and Administration cost were trimmed down to 12%.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

In the context of concentrate epidemic and especially a reduction of external support we have two choices:

1. To do things the cheap way, the simple way, for the short-term and without regarding for the future.
2. Or, we can make the extra efforts, do the hard work, look for opportunities and make decisions that will ensure a **HIV free generation**.

Responding to reduction of external funding support, as Chairman of the National AIDS Authority, I have the honor to inform that:

1. With that the Royal Government will contribute the National Budget through the Ministry of Economic and Finance an amount of 1 million USD in 2015, 1.2 million USD in 2016 and 1.5 million USD in 2017 to buy ARV along with the criteria of Willingness to pay of Global Fund GFATM.
2. Moreover, the National AIDS Authority submitted a \$ 4MUSD proposal to Ministry of Economic and Finance for remediating the cut of external budget estimated at \$ 15MUSD in 2015.

At global level,UNAIDS in the Fact Track strategy to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 makes 2 important statements:

1. Without scale-up, the AIDS epidemic will continue to outrun the response, increasing the long-term need for HIV treatment and increasing future costs.
2. Rapid scale-up of essential HIV prevention and treatment approaches will enable the response to outpace the epidemic.

These recommendations were made to achieve 90-90-90 targets by 2020 and 95-95-95 by 2030.

At the country level

1. *On National Health System and Service Delivery*
 - In this particular moment, Cambodia has to be proactive in planning its financial sustainability of these programs. Besides, there is a greater urgency to strengthen health system as a whole and transition towards more integrated and harmonized health services.
 - The 2014 AIDS Epidemic modeling reaffirms that Cambodia is not far from its national target of eliminating new HIV infections by 2020. However, as the number of new infections declines and given the new funding landscape, more than ever, investment and programmatic focus should be highly strategic. To maximize impact in terms of reducing new infections and AIDS related deaths, the focus should be on providing well adapted and targeted interventions for key affected populations and geographic areas at high risk of HIV and sustaining access to quality treatment.”

2. *Strategic Investments, Efficiency, and Sustainable Financing*

- The National Strategic Plan for comprehensive and Multi-sectoral HIV and AIDS 2015 – 2020 is committed to increase the domestic contribution to 20% by 2020.
- On resources for decentralized level, I would like to inform you that with the design of HIV concept note, the National AIDS Authority plan to incorporated HIV/AIDS in the CDP/CIP (Commune Development Plan/ Commune Investment Plan). The inclusion of HIV and AIDS in ID Poor will be opening the door to a systematic support to greatest need HIV affected households. Efforts for budget code on HIV and AIDS at commune level will enable the budget support for interventions in the hot spots for MARPS and for social protection of PLHIV and OVC in greatest need.
- As a concentrated epidemic, we understand that in the past, PEPFAR identifies Cambodia as a country to receive specific support for key populations and priority technical areas. From this dialogue , we hope that PEPFAR can mobilize other DP/ UN in helping us in developing Sustainability Plans especially on 'technical assistance' by moving away from direct service delivery and toward improving health systems and policies, and increasing host country capacity to lead, design, manage, monitor, evaluate, and finance the HIV response.

3. *Governance, Leadership, and Accountability*

- In 2013 Ministry of Interior developed the Strategic Plan on Social Accountability for Sub-National Democratic Development indicating the strong commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia to step forward in the local governance reform. A mechanism to link between a supply side as *duty bearers* and a demand side as *rights holders*, has be developed at grass root level. The vision and the local mechanism in this important document could be applied to enhance governance and accountability on HIV and AIDS response as more funding will be channeled to commune level.
- Local capacity building is another important area as NGOs and CBOs are closing down. We need to introduce facilitated citizen-led monitoring and reporting of Sub-National Administrations' performance and basic service delivery related to HIV and AIDS.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am calling to all representatives of Key Affected Populations (KAP), and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to actively participate in Groups or Plenary discussion with Health Care Workers, line ministries officials, academia, researchers, and other public servants to work together on key areas of SID and jointly analyze them while looking forward for opportunity to overcome emerging challenges. I am counting on all of you to constantly remind each other on how to ensure an aligned, harmonized and synergistic response to HIV and AIDS Program

I also would like to remind you that 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 and more importantly to secure a sustainable response.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Before concluding my speech, may I call on the participants of this meeting to undertake a compelling march into the future against time, in order to mobilize all our resources (material, intellectual, cultural, emotional, strategic and even resources of faith), and to deploy them towards turning this crisis of the HIV/AIDS pandemic into an opportunity. We must first take full ownership of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We must see it as our problem and we must own our future in the same way we own our home, our land, our heritage and our culture.

I would like to congratulate USG/PEPFAR and UNAIDS for taking this initiative to enable key stakeholders to get involved in this important dialogue. I wish you all to have a robust discussion and to collectively analyze different areas of SID and come up with strategic vision and recommendations for advancing the country agenda towards a sustainable response to HIV and AIDS

I would like to wish Excellencies, Lokchumteav, 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 “Dialogue on - Measuring the Sustainability of the National HIV and AIDS response: Applying the Sustainable Index and Dashboard” from now on.

Thank You.