



National AIDS Authority

Opening Speech

**H.E. Ieng Mouly, Chair of the National AIDS Authority,
at the 2nd Plenary Meeting of the National AIDS Authority 2023,
Independence Hotel, Preah Sihanouk Province
December 4, 2023**

- *Excellencies, Vice Chairs of the National AIDS Authority,*
- *Excellencies, Chair of the AIDS Committees of Ministries, Secretariat of the Provincial Capitals, and the Cambodian Red Cross,*
- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, National and International Guests*

It is an honor and a pleasure to chair the "2nd Plenary Meeting of the National AIDS Authority 2023" at this time. I, on behalf of the National AIDS Authority (NAA), would like to extend a warmest welcome and express my sincere gratitude to Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, and National and International Guests for taking your valuable time to attend this plenary meeting.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the ministries, institutions, and sub-national administrations for the effort and cooperation with the National AIDS Authority to promote and participate in the implementation of Sor Chor Nor Letter No. 213, dated February 21, 2019 on measures to respond to HIV/AIDS with positive outcomes.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

To end AIDS by 2025 and move towards future sustainability, the National AIDS Authority has been leading the drafting of the national policy to End AIDS by 2025 and the Sustainable AIDS Program for 2023-2028. This policy will be put in place to ensure that HIV does not spread and endanger public health, as Cambodia ceases to receive funding from external sources. This policy includes the following 7 points:

- 1) Strengthen the country system of response to HIV/AIDS
- 2) Accelerate the coverage of the prevention program
- 3) Expand, strengthen, and accelerate care and treatment programs
- 4) Expand, strengthen, and accelerate social protection programs
- 5) End discrimination and stigma
- 6) Resource mobilization
- 7) Strengthen the efficiency of the national monitoring and evaluation system

We expect that the policy above will be approved at the beginning of the 7th legislature of this National Assembly. Simultaneously, we have already completed the draft of the 6th National Comprehensive and Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS 2024-2028, which is another new achievement from combined efforts. The 6th National Strategic Plan focuses on the following four major objectives:

- 1) Provide comprehensive, effective prevention, treatment, care, and support through the implementation of a comprehensive, well-coordinated multi-sector approach
- 2) Improve the well-being of key populations and people living with HIV, and create a favorable environment for them to receive effective HIV services.
- 3) Ensure the sustainability of the national HIV response by increasing domestic investment and strengthening the country system that manages, facilitates, and monitors HIV responses
- 4) Build the capacity of community institutions and individuals to strengthen community-led responses and improve the integration of HIV in the health and non-health sectors

The National AIDS Authority would like to commend the Ministry of Economy and Finance for supporting our national policy by establishing national procedures for using the state budget at the sub-national level and providing funding for HIV/AIDS to ministries and institutions at all levels, in the pursuit of eliminating AIDS by 2025.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Our 2nd plenary meeting was held to review the progress, achievements, and effectiveness of the fight against HIV/AIDS of the last six months of 2023. At the same time, we will discuss and collect inputs and recommendations from Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen who are present here today.

We will have two presentations as follows:

- 1) The presentation on the progress of the implementation of the decisions of the 1st Plenary Meeting of the National AIDS Authority 2023, presented by H.E. Dr. Chhim Khindareth, Secretary General of the National AIDS Authority.
- 2) The presentation on the draft of the 6th National Comprehensive and Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and draft of the guidelines on the reporting and response mechanisms to stigma and discrimination, presented by H.E. Dr. Tia Phalla, Vice Chair of the National AIDS Authority.

Before concluding, we will discuss and approve the decisions of the 2nd Plenary Meeting of the National AIDS Authority 2023.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Taking this opportunity, I would like to draw the attention of the Plenary Meeting to the fact that we have been moving forward together, with a clear vision, in the goal of ending AIDS soon. Subsequently, we can ensure the sustainability of the multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS from all institutions, including national, international, development partners, civil societies, the private sector, and the

network of people living with HIV and key population groups. We have established a unified leadership, management, and coordination at both the national and sub-national levels, especially with a single national strategic plan and with a single effective national monitoring and evaluation system.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I sincerely hope that the results of this meeting are important and useful for the technical team to continue their work in response to the spread of HIV/AIDS in the future, in accordance with the recommendations and decisions that will be given soon at this plenary meeting.

Finally, I would like to wish Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen with good health, strength, and wisdom to participate in the successful discussions, according to the planned objectives and to announce the opening of the “2nd Plenary Meeting of the National Authority AIDS 2023.”

Thank you.