

**INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE
FINANCING FRAMEWORK AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLANS IN PRIORITY MINISTRIES**

11 July 2013

Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Welcome remarks by HE Nut Chansokha, Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of
Planning, NCCC Member**

“Integrating Climate Change in national planning and budgeting”

Excellency Thuk Kroeun Vutha, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment

Excellency Jean-François Cautain, EU Ambassador to Cambodia

Excellencies members of the National Climate Change Committee

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

It is a pleasure for me to deliver these welcome remarks today on the integration of Climate Change in national planning and budgeting processes.

Climate Change is one of the main external factors that we need to take into account when setting our development path for Cambodia over the long term. Our investment decisions today need to take into account the opportunities as well as the threats presented by Climate Change, so that we can achieve maximum social and economic benefits now and in the future.

This is fully recognized by the Royal Government Cambodia. Climate Change was an important feature of the 2009-13 NSDP update, and it has now represents one of the cross-cutting issues for the 2014-18 NSDP. Thanks to the work done by National Climate Change Committee members and their technical teams in the various ministries, Climate Change priorities have been effectively integrated in many ministerial contributions, which the Ministry of Planning has received over the past few weeks and which will form the basis for a first draft of the new NSDP. As you all know, several rounds of consultations are planned before the finalization of the NSDP at the end of this year, and I know I can count on all participants in this room to help ensure that climate change priorities defined in your ministerial Climate Change Strategic Plans are clearly reflected in the NSDP, as the key national planning document for the next five years.

The next step is to effectively reflect these priorities in our investment plans, in our budgets, and in the way we plan and implement our development programmes. The exercise that is being launched today will play a key role in this. It will help link the big priorities expressed in the NSDP to detailed steps that need to be taken to operationalize them.

This exercise will provide you with tools to identify climate related expenditures, to prioritize them based on your strategies, and to put in place the right implementation mechanisms.

As you know, Climate Change is not a sectoral issue; it is cross-sectoral issue that needs to be taken into account whenever we plan our regular development activities. For example, if an investment in an

infrastructure or an agricultural programme is made without taking into account the impacts of Climate Change such as increase in temperatures or more extreme climatic events, it will bring less social and economic benefits, and we may have to invest more in future to deal with the consequences. Similarly, Climate Change also provides some opportunities and we should study these opportunities carefully, so that we can invest in the right actions which will bring maximum social and economic benefits in the context of climate change.

We will need financing mechanisms which allow us to bring together regular development funding and climate change financing, in an integrated response. This is true for external financing, but it is also true for domestic resources. Cambodia is developing fast, our domestic revenues are growing every year as well, and we will soon graduate to lower middle-income country status. This means that we need to mainstream climate change not only in our partnerships with donors, but also and most importantly in our internal planning and budgeting practices.

This is not an easy task, and the work that we are launching today is ground-breaking in many ways. Some innovative approaches and tools will be tested during the action planning exercise. Our ambition is for Cambodia to become a model for this type of strategic approach, and to provide lessons learnt and best practices that can be fed into global discussions on climate change planning and financing mechanisms.

From the Ministry of Planning side, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to you all for the work that you have done so far to integrate climate change in your strategic plans, and I look forward to this exercise, which will help us translate our strategic plans into concrete public investment plans and budgets.

Thank you.