CAMBODIA’S VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Delegation of the Royal Government of Cambodia
16 July 2019
Cast iron commitment to the SDG Agenda

- Early adopter & enthusiastic supporter of SDGs
- Strong MDG performer, provides solid foundation for future progress
- Aligns with Cambodia Vision 2050 for an inclusive & sustainable High Income Cambodia
- SDGs offer a guide to continued developmental transformation
- Institutionalized within the Cambodia SDG Framework (the CSDGs)
Context

- Remarkable national rehabilitation and reconstruction after decades of internal conflicts, 1970s genocide
- Economic transformation – over 7% growth per annum for two decades and Progressive industrialization
- High & rapid poverty reduction – from over 50% in 2004 to less than 10% in 2018
- Exceptional MDG performance, majority of goals met, some ahead of time
- Rapid Human development improvement – global top ten, strongest rate of improvement in Asia-Pacific
Cambodia’s exceptional growth record

![Graph showing Per capita GDP (USD) and Real GDP Growth from 2000 to 2017. The graph illustrates a steady increase in both metrics over the period.](image)
Remarkable structural transformation & industrialization
Thorough & extensive VNR process

Line Ministry
- Ministry responses
- Sector policies, laws
- Administrative data
- Feedback

MoP & central sources
- Ministry templates
- National Strategies
- Statistical data
- Administrative data
- Feedback

Civil Society, Development Partners
- Ad hoc inputs
- Research studies
- International data
- Feedback
VNR strengthened policy planning & M&E

- **Intrinsic value in consultation process**: dissemination, validation & course adjustment. Enabled endorsement from Prime Minister.

- **Partnering arrangements have a development dividend**: Joint implementation work, including private sector & communities.

- **Major delivery gains from marrying goals to national objectives**, priorities in line with the National Plan.

- **Importance of “breaking down silos”** to reflect the indivisibility, inter-dependence & complexity of the goals.

- **New policies need to ensure no one is left behind**: “going the last mile” to reach marginalized; responding to demographic change & scaling-up service provision for vulnerable groups.

- **Reaching out to other UN member states** showcasing Cambodia’s efforts but also listening & learning.
Systems & capacity strengthening are top priorities for the Government

- CSDGs (17+ de-mining goal) adopted, institutionalized M&E framework & reporting
- CSDG framework aligned with Vision 2050, complementary to national development objectives
- Key policies focusing on equity & inclusion, alongside ongoing economic success
Integration of CSDGs: 2 channels

- Matrixed to the Rectangular Strategy, within the National Strategic Development Plan
- Innovative use of CSDG targets & indicators within performance based budgeting
Initial CSDG progress is strong

Six VNR priority goals: 60+% ahead or on track

Remaining 12 goals: Only 12% below track
Delivery challenges & next steps

- **Recognize the level of ambition in CSDGs & Vision 2050** - approach cannot be “business as usual”

- **Resourcing/ financing the CSDGs is vital**: strong domestic revenues but declining ODA & growing public expectations

- **Data & M&E needs to be right for context**: Limited sources, target/ measure what is possible, review framework & institutional arrangements

- **Management and capacity reforms are vital**: Accelerate institutional development and performance management