



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Thavrak Tuon
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At the Ministerial Segment of
the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development
“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and
the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development at all levels”

New York, 18 July 2023

- **Mr. President,**
- **Distinguished Delegates**

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I am honoured to address the 2023 High-Level Political Forum which creates an opportunity for us to discuss the urgent need to accelerate our recovery from the dire consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and to overcome the challenges of our time in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As highlighted in our second VNR, Cambodia has made significant strides in implementing the SDGs by achieving remarkable progress in enhancing the well-being of Cambodian population. However, we recognize the need to make further concerted efforts to address challenges we face to ensure that our development is inclusive, resilient and sustainable and ultimately No One Is Left Behind.

Our world is now at a critical juncture. Concurrent crises we are facing have delayed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in many parts of the world, posing interconnected domestic challenges, such as lower economic growth, eroded fiscal space, and rising social issues, to many countries including Cambodia.

To effectively accelerate our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and overcome the inherent challenges, Cambodia has strategically prioritized five essential areas:

- 1) **Diversifying the sources of economic growth to be more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable** by expanding the sources of financing for

development, opening new channels of cooperation, exploring innovative financing tools, and strengthening the green financing mechanism;

- 2) **Promoting circular and green economy** through scaling up effective development cooperation for climate resilience;
- 3) **Fostering the digital transformation** by strengthening capacities to overcome digital divide;
- 4) **Enhancing partnerships** with development partners, private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders and **promoting** South-South and triangular cooperation to bring about the necessary transformations at the speed and scale necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; and
- 5) **Enhancing the well-being of all Cambodians, in particular the most vulnerable** by effectively investing in basic infrastructure, health, quality education, advancing gender equality including the autonomy of women's decision making over reproductive health, and developing social protection systems and building momentum for more effective social protection measures.

In conclusion, the 2023 HLPF presents a unique opportunity for the global community to come together to explore effective solutions to accelerate our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through collaboration and a shared commitment to our common goals, we can overcome the challenges we face and create a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous world for all.

I thank you!