

**Remarks by Hon. Lork Kheng, Head of the Delegation of the National
Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving SDGs**

***Session 1: How are parliaments contributing to the realization of
SDGs during the COVID-19 pandemic?***

Tuesday, 28 September 2021 at 15:25 to 16:20

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

- I. The Kingdom of Cambodia deeply appreciates the collective efforts of the IPU and the House of Representatives of Indonesia in organizing this important meeting.
- II. For almost two years, humanity has faced unprecedented public health crisis. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has been accompanied by growing geopolitical tensions, trade and technology wars, and climate change challenges. These hamper development in socio-economic development and other areas, both regionally and globally.
- III. Cambodia is strongly committed to addressing these problems under a common approach. But implementation varies according to responsibilities and capacities.
- IV. As parliaments, we support governments in promoting multilateral systems with a deep sense of responsibility for the principles of international law and respecting the sovereignty of individual countries to further strengthen our cooperation through closer dialogue and mutual trust.
- V. Cambodia Parliament has been actively contributing to combat those challenges as follows:
 1. The adoption of the “Law on Preventive measure against Covid-19 and other Severely Contagious and Dangerous Diseases.
 2. Extensively raising awareness to the people on the risk, combatting, prevention and protection against COVID-19.
 3. Taking high attention on health safety and livelihood of the people who are affected by COVID-19.
 4. Contribution and support to the Royal Government in the implementation of major emergency strategies such as:
 - The establishment of the National Commission for Combating Covid-19
 - Strengthening health care system mechanisms and facilities, improving the implementation structure of three main core strategies: Prevention, Treatment and Vaccination.
 - launched the cash support programme to support workers, employees and people under poverty who have been affected by Covid-19.
 - Encourage NGOs, associations, volunteers,

philanthropies and private sector to join the effort with the Royal Government in combatting Covid-19 and to timely save lives.

- Strengthening cooperation with development partners, national and international alike, especially, the World Health Organization, in receiving comprehensive information, new and up-to-date recommendations.

- The reception of vaccine through donations and direct purchase as well as the “Blooming Flower” strategy on vaccination, which has successfully implemented, making Cambodia one of the countries with the highest vaccination rate and enabling the country to prevent and handle the pandemic effectively, with the purpose to speed up the reopening of socio-economic activities.

VI. Parliaments must be proactive in overseeing and evaluating government activities, and providing support to executive branches to allocate reserves for urgent strategies for effective prevention of transmission and protection of lives. The global fight against communicable diseases and disasters requires each country to play a more active role in bolstering governance with unity, trust and access to timely information. The aim is to work together under international legal mechanisms in a steadfast, swift and responsible manner. Mobilizing funds from all stakeholders must be included in our cooperation to ensure effective capacity building, knowledge and technology-transfers to tackle global challenges so all humans can live with equality, equity and safety to realize the Sustainable Development Goals) by 2030.

VII. Cambodia urges all developed countries to play a central role in strengthening multilateral systems to effectively address global challenges, including emergency health issues, climate change and security threats.

VIII. Before I yield back the floor, on behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, I have question for the speakers as followed:

1- Could delegates share any example of the pandemic helping to accelerate SDG development? Which SDGs most stand to benefit?

2- Aside from the direct impact to vulnerable people, can the reverse of parts of the SDGs affect the world in a long term run, and which actions shall be taken in this regards?

Thank you for your kind attention!