

**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 2: “Leave no one behind”: Are we keeping the promise?***

***Tuesday, 28 September 2021, from 16:20 to 17:00***

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

- I. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected Cambodia’s national development agenda and set back many people's livelihoods — especially those who have just risen above the poverty line. In such unfortunate circumstances, the Royal Government of Cambodia has launched a cash-support system as part of our national social protection scheme. Before the scheme was set up, Cambodia was already providing cash supports for poor pregnant women. As for our vaccination rollout since February, it has been a sizable mobilization of solidarity nationwide. The vaccination program was recently extended to teenagers and ultimately children of primary school age. Vaccines have been sourced from bilateral and multilateral donors and direct purchases under the national budget.
- II. Even though Cambodia is still a lower-middle income country, it has successfully controlled the situation. Most importantly, no Covid patient has been left untreated. This tells us that financial tools alone cannot address the crisis. At the same time, financial constraints do not undermine the promotion of social equality. To contain the pandemic “Leaving No One Behind”, Cambodia has taken a multi-sector approach.
- III. *Finally, I have two questions to the floor:*
  - 1. What have been the main challenges facing women and youth during the Covid-19 pandemic?***
  - 2. What could drive superpowers to show international solidarity in addressing future crises?***

Thank you for your kind attention.