

**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 3: COVID-19: A wakeup call to make investment in universal
health coverage and health emergency preparedness a priority***

Tuesday, 28 September 2021, from 17:00 to 17:37

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

- I. I'd like to express my strong support for raising this topic in the discussion. As parliamentarians, we are working hard on integrating universal health coverage into public health systems. Cambodia has reached a milestone in establishing a system of social protection and social security — a flexible and low-risk source of financing to support health coverage. Our Commission on Health, Social Affairs, Veterans, Youth Rehabilitation, Labour, Vocational Training and Women's Affairs — which I chair — has set targets to extend health services for non-communicable diseases to grassroots levels. Moving health services closer to users is not only a priority challenge but also a realistic and pragmatic strategy.
- II. In terms of ensuring universal health coverage, the pandemic taught us a good lesson with our vaccination campaign, where the focus has been on universality with flexibility — so to speak. The government has prioritized the most vulnerable to effectively cut transmissions in a timely manner.
- III. *Before closing, I'd like to submit two questions to the floor:*
 - 1. Which major health services have been disrupted by the pandemic and to what extent do disruptions affect SDG implementation?***
 - 2. How do international mechanisms help to achieve decent and durable universal health coverage in developing countries?***

Thank you for your kind attention.