

Remarks by

Hon. Mr. TY SOKHUN

Member of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Delivered at the IPU First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs

Under the theme “Turning the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic into opportunities for parliaments to achieve the SDGs”

Virtual Meeting, 28-30 September 2021

Session 7: The way forward: Let’s share ideas of possible actions parliaments could put in place to achieve the SDGs without further delay!

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are finally onto our last topic of the wonderfully organized First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs. Again, our most sincere congratulations & appreciations to the IPU and the House of Representative of Indonesia. Let’s now end this event on a positive point worthy of this incredibly well put together event.

I would like to start off by reaffirming Cambodia’s commitment on SDGs. We do believe that there are 3 key actions that we should pursue to achieve the SDGs without further delay. **Firstly**, adopting the “Law on Preventive measure against Covid- 19 and other Severely Contagious and Dangerous Diseases”, as most urgently we must attain community herd immunity. COVID-19 has truly demanded one of our finest balancing acts. As we look to keep our population safe from COVID-19, we must also create a safe environment for their economic activities. Cambodia has imposed 3 DON’T and 3 DO preventive measures against COVID-19, as we bid for the time necessary to get our entire population vaccinated. We stand as one of the first nation to get our targeted population vaccinated and one of the first to start implementing third shots as a boosting dose. **Secondly**, we should build a conducive environment for investors **by promulgating our new Investment Law and new Competition Law.** The RGC has adapted key initiatives including tax incentives, as well as the simplification of proceeding formats. Noticeably, sectors such as logistics, clean energies, innovative technologies, and SMEs have received special incentives. Correspondingly, more protective provisions, particularly those concerning copyright protection have also been introduced. Moreover, Cambodia has taken further steps to promote investments from our foreign partners by organizing various trade agreements including EBA scheme with EU, as well as our recent FTA with China and the R-CEP agreement. **Thirdly**, accelerating digitalization, Cambodia is in the process of implementing a Digital Economy and Social Policy Framework from 2021-2035, which identifies the digitalization as a catalyst of economic growth responsive and resilient to changes. This framework focuses on 5 major priorities – developing digital infrastructure, fostering digital trust & confidence, creating digital citizens, building the digital government, and promoting digital businesses. Many initiatives have also been introduced to further strengthen our SMEs’ capabilities through digital up-skilling and enhancing entrepreneurship. In early 2021, Cambodia online banking users rose up by 25% from 2020, as a result of our strategic implementation of digital technology to combat COVID-19. Ultimately, we do believe that these initiatives would not only allow us to fund the necessary SDGs budget, but simultaneously enable us to further our efforts in achieving the SDGs both domestically and together with our foreign partners.

Many thanks with all our best wishes for a successful meeting!