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United Nations in Cambodia

**Remarks by Douglas Broderick, United Nations Resident Coordinator
On the occasion of the launch of DevInfo Version 6.0 in Asia and the Pacific
Siem Reap, Cambodia
2 February 2010**

*Excellency Mr. Chhay Than, Senior Minister and Minister of Planning
Excellency Mr. Rin Virak, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning
Excellency Mr. San Sy Than, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning
Excellency Mr. Velayuthan Sivagnanasothy, Director General, Department of Foreign Aid and Budget
Monitoring, Ministry of Plan Implementation, Government of Sri Lanka
Professor A. K. Shiva Kumar, Institute for Human Development and Adviser, UNICEF India
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen*

I'd like to thank His Excellency Chhay Than for his kind remarks. And I would like to echo His Excellency's advice, and encourage you to take time to visit the extraordinary temples of Angkor Wat, and to see the hard work that UNESCO has been doing to restore the site. The site of the historic capital of Cambodia is an inspiration for all of us and for our work, especially in this wonderful Kingdom of 13.7 million people.

I am pleased to be here today on behalf of the Regional UN Team for the unveiling of the newest version of DevInfo. And I'd like to congratulate the Asia Pacific DevInfo Inter-Agency Task Force on the result of their hard work, planning and implementation over the course of this project.

DevInfo has been, and will continue to be, an invaluable tool assisting governments and development partners in planning and monitoring progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals. But it also allows us to consider and to disseminate information that can be used in productive policy dialogue.

We place a great deal of emphasis on producing sound statistical data. At the same time, we need to focus on how that data can be used to inform and to influence policy making, to educate citizens, to advocate for the marginalised and vulnerable people we serve, and to plan future interventions in our respective countries.

Limited resources need to be put to the best use, as has been made particularly clear over the course of the global economic downturn. Using reliable and nationally owned data to track progress toward indicators provides all partners with a clear picture of the work that has been done, and enables evidence-based changes to be made as necessary.

The United Nations is committed to the principles of transparency, accountability, respect for human rights, and equity. Ensuring that these principles are upheld requires monitoring, using up-to-date,

substantial and reliable data. This strengthened evidence serves as a base for evidence-based development plans, budgets and policies is the key to successful, sustainable and inclusive development framework that all of us will be working on in our countries.

Last week in Cambodia the Royal Government and the UN Country Team signed our new five-year plan from 2011-2015. The UNDAF planning process relies on evidence-based decision-making and policy recommendations. The work ahead will rely on these same guidelines in order to be effective, accountable, and transparent.

Obviously, we look forward to using the new version of CamInfo to coordinate our work and to provide the people of Cambodia with updated progress reports.

We are very pleased to have with us today speakers from India and Sri Lanka who are experts in this field. Mr. Sivagnanasothy and Dr. Kumar are here to share with us their expertise, especially in using data for public policy and decision-making and in using data in our new and evolving aid environment.

I'd like again to take this opportunity to thank the Asia Pacific DevInfo Inter-Agency Task Force, which has worked closely with the Ministry of Planning and the National Institute of Statistics over the past six months to make this event possible in Siem Reap for us all.

On behalf of the Regional UN Team, I hope you will find DevInfo version 6 a valuable tool to support your work in each of your countries. Enjoy the stimulating discussions that are to come over the next four days and practical training in using this important tool for the benefit of the beneficiaries in all of the countries we serve.

Thank you.