Country Statement

H.E. MEAS PO, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Cambodia

At the Eighty-first Session of the

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, 21-25 April 2025

Her Excellency Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good Morning! Her Excellency, His Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today it's my great honor and privilege to be here with you to deliver my Statement at the 81st Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Please allow me to brief about Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Cambodia:

The Royal Government of Cambodia under the leadership Samdach Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has adopted the Pentagonal Strategy Phase-1 with five key priorities: People, Roads, Water, Electricity, and especially Technology to address the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Digital Transformation of Cambodia.

With respect to the Pentagonal Strategy, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Chea Vandeth, Minister of the Post and Telecommunications, with great effort, has been promoting digital adoption and transformation in Cambodia. The Ministry has developed and is working on **policies, laws and regulations** as follows:

- Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework 2021-2035, established with the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
- Cambodia Digital Government Policy 2022-2035.
- Postal Development Policy 2022-2030.
- Digital Skill Development Roadmap 2024-2035.
- Fifth Generation Roadmap (5G).

- Under Amendments:
  - Law on Telecommunications.
  - Law on Postal Development.
- Under Drafting:
  - National AI Strategy.
  - Law on Digital Government.
  - Law on Cybersecurity.
  - Law on Personal Data Protection.
  - Cloud First Policy.
  - Data Governance and Open Data Policy.

In **technology**, MPTC has implemented initiatives including supporting ministries and government entities' digital transformations through the deployment and enhancement of telecoms infrastructure by providing broadband internet and network connections, computer devices, and licensed software and applications; as well as the introduction of emerging technology based digital government products developed by DGC such as :

1. Verify.gov.kh: this platform allows to verify every document in Cambodia, so that Cambodian people can easily remember and verify and so on Internationally.
2. Go.gov.kh: is the Government Point of Truth repository for Public Documents.
3. Form.gov.kh: is the Instant, customizable form with zero code or cost, to safely collect classified and sensitive data.
4. Nomsa.gov.kh: Nomsa serves as a comprehensive mass messaging tool designed for the Cambodian Government. This tool facilitates seamless message management and tracking, eliminating the need for users to toggle between outlook and short message service (SMS) portals.
5. Qr.gov.kh: Developed for streamlines information sharing. It provides a swift, cost-effective, and reliable alternative to traditional methods like printing on name cards, avoiding manual efforts and ensuring efficiency.
6. Sarika platform: is a formal telegram bot for Khmer language support. Sarika adeptly convert text to speech, transcribes speech to text, and reads documents aloud.
7. DG SuperApp, which will serve as a platform for ministries and institutions to utilize to efficiently and digitally provide their public services.

In **human capital development**, MPTC has introduced 3 major initiatives: 1) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, building Community Tech Centers at all 558 high schools across the country as well as preparing digital professional communities; 2) providing Techo Digital Scholarships to outstanding students to pursue studies in digital technology since 2021. Since then, we have provided scholarships to more than 1000 outstanding students, and this year we are pleased to offer additional 600 scholarships; and 3) introducing Digital Skill Development Program to provide student financial aid. In line with this, MPTC also launched the “Digital Skill Development Roadmap 2024-2035” to promote advanced

digital skills in telecommunications, cybersecurity, data governance, software development, data and AI, digital sale and marketing, and digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

On **digital infrastructure**, Cambodia is expanding connectivity that will allow for internet access to every commune by 2027. Our mobile penetration rate is 122.26%. Over the last four years the number of base-transceiver stations has increased by 30%, and a new line of submarine cables is under construction. We recognize that digital infrastructure must be adequate enabling access for all, especially the rural population, so that all are empowered with access to knowledge and information, leaving no one behind.

Today in Cambodia have population about 17,336,306 million people and having:

- 4 mobile phone Companies/operators with 20.3 million subscribers (SIM in actives)
- 5 fixed phone operators with 30,000 subscribers
- Mobile internet subscriptions: 18.5 Millions
- Fixed internet subscriptions: 730,000.
- Facebook accounts: 14 million

Her Excellency, Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen!

"Cambodia is honored to contribute to advancing regional cooperation in digital transformation and inclusion. In this regard, we appreciate the support extended by the ESCAP secretariat to the development of our national Artificial Intelligence-AI strategy, under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative. Accordingly, Cambodia would welcome the opportunity to host the 9th Session of the Steering Committee in the historic city of Siem Reap later this year in 2025.

We are also expressing our interest in hosting the next Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on digital themes, as contained in the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific.

Cambodia stands ready to work with all member States, partners, and the ESCAP secretariat to ensure these gatherings foster inclusive dialogue and impactful outcomes for building our region's future digital transformation."

Thank you for your kind attention!