Cambodia Country Statement
H.E. Bin Troachhey, Minister of Planning
Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference: Agenda 2
Bangkok, 15-17 November 2023 (4 minutes)

Excellency Chair
Distinguished Delegates, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Firstly, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) wishes to express appreciation to the Government of Thailand and to the organizers – the Joint Secretariat of UNESCAP and UNFPA for hosting this event. I am privileged to represent the Royal Government of Cambodia at the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC7). This conference stands as a testament to our collective commitment to shaping a brighter future for our populations.

2. Endorsing the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) goals and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, the RGC adopts 12 voluntary commitments at the 2019 Nairobi Summit and takes seriously the commitments made towards achieving the “Three Transformative Outcomes”: zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning and key progress towards zero violence and harmful practices against women and girls.

3. Cambodia’s total population was about 17 million in 2023 with the 2008-2019 annual growth rate of 1.5%. Despite rapid fertility decline from 4.0 in 2000 to 2.5 in 2019, the population of Cambodia remains youthful with 53% of the population under the age of 30 and the proportion of ever married women aged 15-24 was 23.5% in urban and 30.1% of rural areas. Given the fertility decline, Cambodia is blessed with the demographic dividend. The 15-64 productive-age population is accounted for 66.2% of the total population in 2023 and is expected to increase to 68.9% by 2045.

4. Cambodia's National Population Policy (NPP) 2016-2030 is the overarching policy framework providing strategic directions on all population-related issues. It aims to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of all citizens, alleviate poverty, and respond to socio-demographic trends, as well as to ensure that the country’s “demographic dividend” projected to end after 2045 is healthy, productive and educated and that all Cambodians can reap the benefits of development and participate in economic activities as the country aims to become a high-income country by 2050.

5. The socio-economic development progress has been astonishing prior to the Covid-19 epidemic strike. The GDP growth averaged 7% annually from 2009 to 2019 and the poverty rate declined from 33.8% in 2009 to 17.8% in 2019-2020. From 2005 to 2021-2022, the maternal mortality ratio sharply declined from 472 to 154 per 100,000 live births, under-5 mortality rate decreased from 83 to 16 per 1,000 live births, and unmet need for family planning decreased from 25% to 12%. Regarding the gender-based violence, the percentage of ever-married women aged 15-49 who have experienced spousal physical, sexual or emotional violence declined from 29% in 2014 to 21% in 2021-2022.
Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen!

6. Despite such progress, the RGC acknowledges challenges, including financial barriers, and more work needs to be done, especially in the areas of gender equality and empowerment and geographical disparity in a number of development indicators, in order to realize our commitments. In this regard, a Special Committee for Accelerating the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (SC-ICPD-PoA) has been created through a Sub-Decree of the RGC and its sub-national committees have been created for all 25 Capital/provinces. Consisting of 20 line-ministries, UNFPA and CSOs, this Special Committee is tasked with the implementation and monitoring of the 12 voluntary National Commitments.

7. The Special Committee has put in place an overarching strategic framework called “Cambodia’s Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2024-2030 – CSFAP”, which aligned with Cambodia’s development framework for all relevant line ministries and stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of ICPD Programme of Action by respecting women’s and girls’ rights and choices to sexual and reproductive health and freedom from violence and discrimination. The key strategic objectives of the CSFAP include strengthening the legal framework and institutional capacity, expanding service availability and enhancing service quality, raising public awareness, cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships, and mobilizing resources, with strong emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and attitude changing.

8. Lastly, we are convinced that the CSFAP will help translate our commitments to effective action. Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate the RGC’s commitment to accelerating the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action by equipping ourselves with investments in health, education, social protection systems and infrastructure for the wellbeing of our population, especially women and girls. While the World is facing unprecedented challenges, this is the time to double down the solidarity, support and cooperation among the countries in the region so that the 2019 ICPD commitments are realized and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved.

I thank you,