Country Statement - Cambodia

"Country perspective on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind"

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor to speak on behalf of Cambodian delegations.

Mr. Chairman let me first congratulate you for your election as Chair of this session and your effective management of the proceedings.

Cambodian delegations are from the Ministry of Planning (MOP) which has been mandated to coordinate the localization of SDGs and the roll-out and implementation of the CSDGs. Recently, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has been endorsed CSDGs with 18 goals, 87 targets and 146 indicators. We would also note that work on the framework does not stop with official endorsement. This is still a work in progress, with a need to provide new data sources and work on quality issues.

So let me turn to dada supports, which National Statistical System of Cambodia has been facing still significant gaps in terms of human and financial resources even as it strives to meet the increasing requirements of National Strategic Development Plan and SDG monitoring.

Moving forward to meet these challenges, after fully endorsement of the new Statistics Law in 2015 which is mainly includes the chapter on financial sources for statistics, Cambodia has recently also formulated its National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2018-2023. The NSDS is strongly aligned the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) and Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDG) framework. The NSDS Cambodia consists of 8 strategic operations toward delivering quality statistics for decision-making and planning, and leading to an improved organization of the national statistical system, and information available to people and government to ensure that "*no one is left behind*".

Several relatively major censuses and surveys are to be conducted in the next five years, such as the population census, agricultural census, economic census, household socio-economic survey, demographic and health survey, and others. Subsequently, designated statistical units within line ministries would be called upon to provide more indicators to be derived from their management

information systems and administrative records, covering economic, social and environmental domains. These works were clearly stated in the Statistics Law and NSDS 2018-2023.

Following the successful conducting of population census from the last two censuses in 1998 and 2008, Cambodia is committed to further implementing the next population census in 2019 in order to response the increasing demand of government agencies, planners and researchers for reliable and updated demographic and social data in order to review their plans and programmes. More importantly, supporting the SDGs will also require that progress towards meeting the goals and targets be monitored on a regular and systematic basis. The most of census budget is covered by Royal Government Cambodia and generous equipment supported from the People's Republic of China through NBS of China. However, the funding gaps still remain due to lack of commitment from development partners.

Cambodia Inter-Censusal Agriculture Survey is scheduled to conduct in 2019 and will continue annual Agricultural Survey (AGRISurvey) from 2020-2022 with technical assistance support from FAO and funding from USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Counterpart funds from the Royal Government of Cambodia. AGRISurvey will collect up-to-date information on economic, environmental and social dimensions of agricultural holdings. Specifically, data on crop cultivation, livestock, and fisheries will be available for national and local policy planning. In addition, agriculture and rural statistics will derive from module of Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey which is conduct in every two years.

Cambodia is implementing major national household sample survey, namely Cambodia Socio Economic Survey (CSES), which was conducted annually since 2007, and the survey is conducted every 5 years with a big sample size, starting with first "Big sample" survey in 1994, followed by in 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014. The survey provides a comprehensive set of indicators on living conditions in Cambodia, covering the main economics and social areas, such as health, education, housing conditions, economic activities, victimization, vulnerability and others. In addition, the data has been importantly used to monitor the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) and SDGs, and to develop effective policies for reducing poverty in Cambodia. The CSES also

functions as framework for building capacity in the field of statistics at NIS within the Statistics Sweden and NIS cooperation project.

In the area of statistical advocacy and data planning, Cambodia has been working closely with technical experts of PARIS21 in the implementation of the adoption of Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT), which is a consultative tool that brings together development stakeholders in the promotion of evidence in policy design and monitoring. Currently, we have integrated all SDG indicators and the existing national development indicators based on the results of the assessment of national statistical system capacity to compile the SDGs capacity to promote the reuse of data and the quality assessment of data sources, especially using the ADAPT for promoting the implementation of NSDS and SDGs. Additionally, it will crucial importance in enabling the NIS to perform its mandate to ensure the provision of relevant and timely dissemination of high quality and objective official statistics.

In addition to the all above efforts, Cambodia has also participated in the pilot project on "Advancing dissemination of the SDGs and other indicators using .Stat Suite", jointly undertaken by OECD, PARIS21, UNICEF and UNSD, was held in March to October 2018, will providing the further support to Cambodia in the future better implementation of its open data platform for SDG reporting and dissemination.

Through this pilot project will also contributing as part of project on "SDG monitoring", which is currently implementing by the NIS with funding and technical supports from UNSD-DFID. The specific objectives of project is to ensure a stronger and formalized coordination and collaboration among national data producers and by promoting the use of standard definitions, methodologies, data exchange formats and data transfers; and enhance knowledge across the official statistics through statistical literacy training, related to topics, such as development indicators, processes of storage, exchange, dissemination, presentation and communication of data.

Although considerable achievements were accomplished, the need for strengthening roles of NIS in coordination and cooperation among statistical units of line ministries and sub-national level, and human resource development are remained the key challenges.

On behalf of Cambodia delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all development partners those who have supported and have been supporting to the National Institute of Statistics and the development of National Statistical System of Cambodia.

Finally, Cambodia would like to express its strong support for adoption of the declaration entitled *"Navigating policy with data to leave no one behind"* that will be a set of collective vision to enable national statistical systems to mobilize resources and expand in the network of partners and inter-development stakeholders, and to produce high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated statistics toward achieving the SDGs by the 2030.

Thank you.