



អង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិប្រចាំប្រទេសកម្ពុជា  
United Nations in Cambodia

Welcome Remarks by Douglas Broderick, United Nations Resident Coordinator

Launch of the Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme

8:30-XX:XX am, Thursday 17 November 2011, Intercontinental Hotel

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*H.E **Chan Sarun**, Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries;*

*Excellencies;*

*Development Partners;*

*Honorable guests;*

*Ladies and Gentlemen.*

First of all I would like to congratulate the Forestry Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection for their leadership in organizing this important event.

On behalf of the UN team in Cambodia, it is my privilege to be here this morning to participate in the opening session of the Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme Inception Workshop.

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations Collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), which builds on the convening power and expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Programme assists developing countries to prepare and implement their national REDD+ strategies and mechanisms to improve forest governance. UN-REDD Programme was launched in September 2008, with funding from Norway. Since then, four more donors have contributed funds, but Norway continues to be the programme's largest donor.

When we look at the situation of the deforestation and forest degradation globally, these processes contribute nearly 20% of global emissions of greenhouse gases, which is more than the transportation sector and second only to the energy sector. In the context of the Asia-Pacific area, between 2000 and 2005, one third of global natural forest loss occurred in Asia, and, as a result, Asia-Pacific is a major source of these global emissions. Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the region include plantation crops, illegal logging, shifting cultivation, mining and infrastructure development.

Deforestation and forest degradation do not only contribute to climate change but also have adverse effects on livelihoods of people who depend on food, water, fiber and other services from forests, as well as on the region's rich biodiversity. Two-thirds of the world's poor live in the Asia-Pacific region, and 75% of those poor live in rural areas with high dependency on forest resources. There are between 210 and 260 million indigenous people living in this region, the majority of whom are forest dependent. And eleven of the world's 25 most endangered primates are found in Asia.

To halt these trends of forest loss and forest degradation, the UN-REDD Programme supports countries to help monetize the carbon stored in forests in order to create an incentive to protect and sustainably manage their forest assets. Such an effort involves preparation and implementation of national REDD+ strategies and mechanisms for measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of REDD+ performance, board-based stakeholder engagement and equitable and transparent distribution of benefits.

FAO and UNDP provided funding to support the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC)'s initial involvement in REDD+ readiness, and the government has successfully developed the Cambodia REDD+ Roadmap with the support from stakeholder groups during the period of January to September 2010. The Cambodia REDD+ Roadmap is a plan for how the RGC

and key stakeholders, including development partners, would like to move forward with REDD+ readiness. Throughout the preparation of the Roadmap, the RGC undertook consultation with development partners, REDD+ project developers, civil society and indigenous peoples groups in order to ensure a relevant and nationally-owned document.

The Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme has been specifically designed to support implementation of the Cambodian REDD+ Roadmap. The national programme document was signed in August 2011. Since then FAO, UNDP, and UNEP have continuously supported the RGC to start up the programme.

Today's discussions, after the opening session, focus on scope, approaches, and expected results of the Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme, how the programme aligns with national policy as well as national priorities, sharing relevant stakeholders' challenges and opportunities regarding REDD+, building synergies in the area, and refining the annual work plan of the programme. I strongly encourage everyone to contribute to those discussions actively and share their own substantial knowledge and experiences among colleagues so that fruitful results can be achieved by the end of today.

**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

I believe, in order to develop the Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme further and to enhance the effectiveness of the programme, many efforts are required by key stakeholders, including the RGC. The Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme will aim to achieve 4 outcomes in the next 2 years, which include, preparation of national REDD+ readiness management arrangements national capacity-building towards development of the REDD+ strategy and implementation framework, subnational REDD+ capacity-building and implementation of demonstration activities, and support to development of the monitoring system. Today, I would like to point out 4 elements which I believe necessary for every stakeholder to remember throughout the implementation of this programme so as to achieve those 4 outcomes and thus helping Cambodia to be ready for REDD+.

Firstly, develop a well facilitated and coordinated REDD+ Strategy.

When Cambodia is ready to implement REDD+, it will be guided by the Cambodia National REDD+ Strategy. Interventions to reduce emissions need to be integrated with normal socio-economic planning, therefore participation by local communities and broader stakeholder involvement during the development of the Strategy are required. The contents of the Strategy, and information on how it will be implemented should be well communicated to every stakeholder, especially local communities, so that everyone will

understand the complex issues associated with REDD+. To do so, it is important to recognize the right of self-determination of the local communities. Local communities are entitled to have provide or withhold their Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) to any activities affecting their land or resources. Indigenous peoples should be guaranteed the collective right to give or withhold free, prior and informed consent to all activities, projects, legislative or administrative measures, and policies that take place in or impact their lands, territories, or resources, or which otherwise affect their livelihoods.

Secondly, develop profound capacity in governance. The Cambodia REDD+ Strategy should include a monitoring system for forest-carbon stocks and emissions, as well as for benefits and impacts. This means that the Strategy needs to include a governance development plan, for instance, developing capacity for monitoring, strengthening law enforcement, and improving the quality of forest governance. It will be a time consuming process, but to obtain sustainability of the programme, it is necessary.

This second point will lead us to the third point, that is, successful monetization of the carbon stored in forests and creation of incentives for conservation. To be effective, benefits need to be channeled to forest-

dependent communities through a system characterized by good governance, embracing equity, and transparency, which are fundamental safeguards against the risk of corruption.

Lastly, create sustainable participatory monitoring mechanisms. This is a critical condition to achieve successful implementation of REDD+ in Cambodia. The local communities' engagement and cooperation is essential for successful implementation of REDD+. Their capacity should be built to contribute to effective monitoring of the forests and of measures to reduce net emissions.

### **Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen**

I am confident that every stakeholder involved in the programme will help to successfully deliver its goals in the coming years. Once Cambodia is ready for REDD+, REDD+ activities will not only conserve carbon, but will also deliver co-benefits such as biodiversity conservation, the provision of ecosystem services and poverty alleviation. Co-benefits are not automatically guaranteed, but if Cambodia undertakes careful assessments and planning to incorporate the views and aspirations of all stakeholders during the development of the REDD+ Strategy, the benefits accruing from REDD+ will be varied and significant. I strongly believe that the Royal Government of

Cambodia will be successful in preparing for REDD+ and we, the United Nations, are committed to supporting and assisting the Royal Government of Cambodia in close collaboration with key development partners, civil society and the private sectors.

We will continue to provide support to the Government to improve coordination, enhance awareness and understanding among stakeholders about REDD+ and are ready to mobilize technical and financial support to address gaps. Orkun charan.