

We appreciate the Cambodian government, particularly the Ministry of Planning, for completing the localization process of the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), which has resulted in the formation of the Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals, and presenting the Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Together, we can achieve the SDGs. However, most people, especially the indigenous peoples and marginalized groups, are still unaware of what the SDGs are. Moreover, there are challenges mainstreaming SDGs into policy framework at a sub-national level. With regard to these concerns, what will the Cambodian government and stakeholders do? We recommend all stakeholders, to the respective Ministry, to take immediate action in incorporating the SDGs into the national development agenda by inclusively engaging the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs), involving indigenous peoples in all stages.

What are the commitments of stakeholders and the Cambodian government to ensure an inclusive partnership in all of the stages of the SDGs, including the next VNR preparation? In the spirit of an inclusive participatory approach, reflecting the progress, achievements, and challenges of the SDGs should involve all key stakeholders, especially indigenous peoples and marginalized groups. In addition, we need a clear and accessible mechanism to ensure that inputs and recommendations from CSOs and indigenous peoples are taken into account at the ministerial level. The government should provide a more inclusive space, a clear guideline and a sufficient amount of time for CSOs to meaningfully participate in the future VNR process.

Accomplishing the SDGs is an ambitious plan. Therefore, we recommend that the government create and regulate public policies in which the private sector and itself can allocate financial resources towards fulfilling the SDGs, while ensuring effective budget management through verifiable transparency and accountability. We understand that the Cambodian government has concerns about SDGs financing, but the government's commitment to achieving the SDGs is essential to reaching optimal success of the national development agenda.

## Statement 2

Both the Cambodian government and indigenous peoples committed to achieve the SDGs. Partnership is then needed especially at the local level to implement the SDGs with indigenous peoples.

However, the current localization processes of the SDGs in Cambodia, including the VNR, does not yet include indigenous peoples' voices. Localization of Cambodian SDGs should emphasize targets and indicators relating to indigenous peoples. So far, only 2 of the 88 targets mention us. Therefore, further locally accessible mechanisms and information systems should be put into place to enable the effective participation of indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups.

Partnership with indigenous peoples can begin by allocating more resources to support conservation and development efforts based on actual needs. There should also be more awareness-raising and enforcement of favorable laws and policies relating to indigenous peoples. It is with effective participation, decision making, and the upholding of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples that these goals can be accomplished. Leaving no one behind in the processes of national development and working on strengthening and preserving the rights of all peoples will build an even more thriving Cambodia.

Our customary practices and way of living, particularly our sustainable use and management of land and natural resources can greatly contribute to achieving SDGs. Our customary land and natural resources are the sources of food security, livelihood, decent work, and wellbeing, etc. and contribute to several SDGs such as SDG4, SDG8, SDG10, SDG13, SDG16, and SDG17. It is therefore important to recognize our customary land use and tenure systems, including the values, roles, and contributions of indigenous peoples and put them at the center of the planning and implementation of the SDGs. Working together, we will have an inclusive and sustainable development and prosperity in Cambodia.