

**Your Excellency President of the World Health Assembly**

**Dr Tedros, Director-General of the World Health Organization**

**Excellencies, honorable Ministers, distinguished colleagues and friends,**

Cambodia delegation is grateful to the DG's address and the important theme for the general debate. Health and peace are interlinked.

We are proud of our remarkable health progress including the significant reduction of maternal and child mortality, combating communicable diseases such as malaria elimination. These health achievements would not be possible without peace in Cambodia.

Cambodia has been making extraordinary efforts in preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensuring a successful vaccine rollout and equitable access to health services for all people.

Poor people can access to free health services through our Cash Transfer Programme for Poor and Vulnerable Households. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support has been provided to our people like migrant workers. Every eligible Cambodian and foreigner is able to access to free COVID-19 vaccine. These health, social and economic response has been contributing to Cambodia's reopening policy, economic recovery, peace and development.

There are many lessons from COVID-19. Our experience in Cambodia reconfirms that peace is a foundation for everything including health, and that "if health is at risk, everything is at risk".

Cambodia recognizes the invaluable contribution and technical leadership role of WHO to support our pandemic preparedness and response, COVID-19 vaccination and health system strengthening. We appreciate solidarity, cooperation and support from WHO, many countries and partners.

The WHO DG's five priorities are important and very relevant to our WHO Western Pacific Region including Cambodia. Our health work in Cambodia has been also guided by the regional "For the Future" shared vision.

Cambodia is currently developing a new Health Strategic Plan for the future. We call for more sustainable investment in health especially refocusing on Primary Health Care (or PHC) as a foundation for Universal Health Coverage (or UHC). Sustainable financing for health and social health protection remains a significant challenge that needs to be addressed.

Political leadership is essential to ensure "peace" and "health" go together. WHO continues to play a crucial role in advancing global health especially health security and universal health coverage for all. We appreciate WHO's country-focused support.

Thank you.