

AID-FOR-TRADE PLEDGING ROUNDTABLE

an MoC initiative supported by the EIF Programme

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, March 31, 2016

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has introduced significant economic reforms over the last 20 years and endorsed trade integration as a pillar of economic development acceding to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2004. As a result, Cambodia has made significant development progress, in reducing poverty and ensuring trade is an engine of growth. Taking advantage of a convergence of views with its development partners, the RGC adopted an integrated approach towards trade development and aid for trade coordination through the establishment of the Trade Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) in 2008. There is wide consensus that the Trade SWAp has contributed greatly to articulating national pro-poor trade priorities, enhancing quality of dialogue between the Cambodian Government and development partners and, to a lesser extent, with the private sector, as well as reducing duplication and increasing synergies among assistance from different donors.

The Ministry of Commerce (MoC), through the Department of International Cooperation (DICO), serves as Secretariat to the Trade SWAp and is responsible for coordinating Aid for Trade (Aft) to Cambodia, as well as monitoring results and impacts.

DICO launched the formulation of the Medium Term Plan for Aid-for-Trade 2016-2020 (aka MTP) in March 2015 with financial assistance of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). The formulation of the Medium Term Plan comes at a time when DICO is completing the implementation of the Trade Development Support Program (TDSP) and the EIF Tier 1 grant. Those have been critical in developing capacity in MoC and other government agencies, for implementing the trade agenda.

The MTP identified and prioritized 10 clusters of activities for furthering the implementation of the Trade SWAp Roadmap. Subsequently, concept notes for the five top clusters were formulated and formally endorsed by the SSC-TD&TRI on 17 November 2015; The Medium Term Plan will inform the formulation of new Aid for Trade programs in Cambodia for the next five years. The estimated budget needs for the top five cluster concept notes is approximately \$30 million over this period.

Against this backdrop and in the context of the Medium Term Plan implementation, the MoC through DICO is now ready to move to a more active resource mobilization stage, targeting both traditional donors and non-traditional ones, in a context of rapid progress towards LDC graduation.

The purpose of the pledging conference is therefore (1) to present Cambodia's Aid-for-Trade strategy priorities for the period 2016-2020, (2) to seek development partner feedback and support and (3) to plan next formulation steps with an Aid Effectiveness focus.

Thursday, 31 March 2016 (morning only)

Cambodia's Aid-for-Trade priorities 2016-2020

Angkor Wat Room, Ministry of Commerce, Phnom Penh

Tentative agenda

09:00-09:20	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>H.E. PAN Sorasak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Royal Government of Cambodia</p> <p>H.E. George Edgar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the European Union to the Kingdom of Cambodia, EIF Donor Facilitator in Cambodia</p>
09:20-09:40	<p>Results and achievements under Cambodia Trade SWAp 2008-2015</p> <p>H.E. LCT Tekreth Kamrang, Secretary of State, EIF Focal Point for Cambodia</p>
09:40-10:00	<p>The Medium Term Plan for Aid-for-Trade 2016-2020: formulation, implementation modalities and DP support</p> <p>Mr. CHHIENG Pich, Director, Department of International Cooperation, MoC</p>
10:00-10:10	<p>The EIF Programme Phase 2: overview and implications for Cambodia</p> <p>Ms. Hang Tran, Coordinator, EIF Executive Secretariat</p>
10:10-11:30	<p>Development Partner on-going and planned Trade-related assistance support to Cambodia: feedback and inputs</p> <p>All present development partners.</p> <p>Moderated by H.E. PAN Sorasak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Royal Government of Cambodia</p>
11:30-11:45	<p>Concluding Remarks</p> <p>H.E. PAN Sorasak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Royal Government of Cambodia</p>

Note: This agenda is subject to change as needed.