

## LAUNCH WORKSHOP FOR CAMBODIA MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FORMULATION

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Secretary of State, EIF Focal Point

Excellencies,  
Development partners,  
UN agencies representatives  
Colleagues  
Ladies and Gentlemen

1- Allow me to start by giving you all a warm welcome to MoC and thank you for accepting to join the launch workshop of the Medium-Term Plan for Cambodia.

2- A year ago, under the Chairmanship of Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen, the Royal Government of Cambodia launched its third integration strategy known as Cambodia Trade Integration Study (CTIS) 2014-2018 and its accompanying Trade SWAp Road Map.

3- A few weeks later, the Ministry of Commerce tasked DICO to work closely with line ministries, private sector and our development partners to support the formulation, implementation and evaluation of project proposals aimed at supporting the Trade SWAp Goals, but also MoC own reform agenda.

4- With the Trade Development Support Programme (TDSP), the EIF Tier 1 and EIF CEDEP I entering their phasing out this year, with uncertainty over continued EUF funding beyond 2015 and with the AEC being just around the corner, MoC needs to anticipate future trade-related assistance needs and ensure trade continues to be mainstreamed in our policies and strategies. As a result MoC, with financial support from the EIF programme, commissioned UNDP to develop a robust, ambitious and far-reaching medium-term programme for Aid-for-Trade (MTP in short) covering the period 2016-2020. This endeavor will last until we have formulated robust programme proposal.

5- The Trade SWAp road map should be the starting point. The Road Map has 20 outcomes each with a number of Actions and Indicators for those Actions. The Actions were identified through intensive discussions with outcomes' stakeholders, including through Focus Groups meetings focusing on individual outcomes. **We should also take advantage of the recommendations stemming from the recent evaluation of the EIF Tier 1 project and of the mid-term evaluations of CEDEP I, both concluding that further capacity development efforts will be needed so sustain institution development.** DICO has been monitoring the implementation of the Trade SWAp for the past 5 years and is in a good position to provide all the information needed.

6- The MTP will be delivered in three successive stages:

**7- First,** we need to review for each outcome in the Road Map, How much progress has been made, thus far, against each action. Even though the Actions were identified back in 2013 with the stakeholders, should some Actions be added? What technical assistance support is needed, is already in place, or is lacking. For this to happen, cooperation from individual Ministries will be needed, to assess the extent to which they have incorporated some of the goals and Actions of the

Road map in their own work plans. This will be the focus of this mission that will last for two weeks and that should allow the MTP team to get access to most up-to-date information from all our stakeholders.

**8- Second**, we need to have a careful look at sector policies the Government has or is planning to develop and whether those use trade indicators. The recently adopted Industrial Development Policy (IDP) is a case in point. This might lead us to review how the monitoring and feedback process of the Trade SWAp implementation is conducted and whether the process needs improvement.

**9- Third**, once enough ground has been covered on the previous steps, will come a stage when we need to agree on a number of shared understanding as to the guiding principles to be used to develop the concept notes for future technical assistance programmes for the period 2016-2020. This will involve close cooperation with development partners beyond the core group who has supported the Trade SWAp up to now, to include new donors and non-traditional ones. In order to maximize our chances, we have asked the MTP team to make their 2<sup>nd</sup> mission coincide with the EU formulation team mission to Cambodia, end May 2015.

10- We have planned a wrap-up meeting towards the end of next week so that the MTP team could brief us on their findings, early recommendations and share with us their work programme until the end of the mission in June.

11- I thank you once again for joining this workshop that will launch our 2016-2020 Aid-for-Trade programme formulation work. I call on you to provide candid assessments of your institution trade-related performance and trade-related needs.

Have a fruitful meeting.