

STATEMENT OF **H.E. MA NORITH**, ADVISOR TO NCDM
THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT (NCDM) OF
THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
ADDRESS AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION,
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
19th – 23rd MAY 2013

**Your Excellency Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguish Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of **H.E. Dr. Nhim Vanda**, Senior Minister in charge of First Vice President of NCDM of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to express my profound appreciation to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and Government of Switzerland for the invaluable support, excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to me attending in this significant platform.

The chosen theme for the 4th GPDRR “**Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow**” is aligned with the Royal Government of Cambodia’s priorities which underlines the strengthening and expanding good cooperation with ASEAN, international community, and especially the United Nations system in addressing the regional and global challenges, including the depletion of natural resources, pandemics, natural disasters, and climate change for a safer future.

**Excellencies,
Distinguish Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With the strong political will and commitment as well as the contributions from sub-national, Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), organizations and development partners, especially the great supports from the United Nations system, the Royal Government of Cambodia has made all its effort to overcome the challenges to lead the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) by incorporating the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) into the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2014-2018, followed by development of the legislations and policies such as the Strategic National Action Plan

for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP-DRR); National Contingency Plan (NCP); Strategic Plan on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) for the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Sector; and National DRR Forums to another new stage of the progress. In addition, a draft Law on Disaster Management is being finalized to be enacted by the legislative bodies in order to improve the disaster management in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The benefits of establishment the National DRR Forums are manifold and these include: the increasing levels of knowledge and skills in DRR at different levels; mainstreaming DRR activities into the commune development plan; sharing lessons learned of DRR activities; promoting the leadership and commitment of multi-stakeholders toward the implementation of HFA strategic goals.

The successful factors of the HFA implementation is how DRR itself has now been recognized as valuable instrument and a national priority with the involvement of multi-stakeholders especially Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), organization partners and private sectors in response to the needs of people affected by disasters; strengthened capacity and budget of the Royal Government at all levels for DRR; strong coordination during the emergency response and overall disaster management between the Royal Government and organization partners both at national and sub-national levels; community participation together with building DRR capacity of women and children; and strengthened institutional set up for DRR implementation.

However, to further enhance the progress, there is the need to strengthen the coordination mechanisms and accountabilities for the implementation, including the roles and responsibilities of the Royal Government for DRR; awareness raising for all people and mobilize resources for the emergency response; integration DRR and CCA into commune development plan and school curriculum; improving the culture of safety at all levels include infrastructure and safe areas; pass the Disaster Management Law and put the Strategic National Action Plan for DRR into implementation.

In contribution to the Post-2015 Framework on DRR (HFA-2), there is the need to strengthen partnership among the Royal Government, Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), organization and development partners and private sectors; promote DRR programme and mechanism to support the implementation on the ground; to invest in human capacity and engage with regional and global levels to support the prevention and mitigation of trans-boundary disasters.

**Excellencies,
Distinguish Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before ending, allow me to reaffirm the Cambodia's commitment to reducing the disaster risks and its persistent efforts towards implementing the priority areas of HFA at the international, national and local levels. Cambodia also welcomes and acknowledges the on-going efforts by the UNISDR towards developing a post-HFA framework.

Cambodia looks forward to the fruitful outcomes of this platform especially the new ideas to ensure the implementation of the HFA and achieving consensus on how local, national, regional and international stakeholders can effectively address the new challenges brought about by disasters and climate change.

At the end, I would like to wish Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen with good health and the entire platform with great success.

Thank You.