

Opening Remark of HE Ieng Mouly,

**Senior Minister and Chairperson of the National AIDS Authority  
of the Royal Government of Cambodia**

**12th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP 12)**

12 March 2016

Your Excellency, Mr. Abdul Hamid, Honorable President, Peoples Republic of Bangladesh,

Your Excellency Mr. Mohammed Nasim MP, Honorable Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh,

Mr. Syed Monjurul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and ICAAP12 Chair Executive Committee

Dr. Joe Thomas, Secretary General of ICAAP 12,

Distinguished Representatives of governments, civil society organizations and Key Populations

Ladies and gentlemen

- On behalf of Samdach Akak Moha Sena Padei Decho Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of Cambodia, it is a privilege for me to deliver the opening remarks for the 12th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.
- Cambodia is joining this HIV-specific congress in our region with sincere intention to update our knowledge on initiatives to end HIV epidemic from the wealth of knowledge shared by country representatives in the region and to strengthen south to south collaboration especially with bordering countries in responding to HIV and AIDS.
- With the theme “Be the Change for an AIDS Free Generation, Our Right to Health”, Cambodia would like to refresh our commitment through this important occasion with the following changes that we have been engaging to end AIDS epidemic in 2030.

1. From a generalized epidemic to concentrated epidemic, we are committed to end epidemic before 2030 by implementing the Boosted Integrated Active Case Management to achieve the 90-90-90 targets in 2020. After more than two decades in the fight against AIDS, we are compelled do more with less. This requires courageous leaders at all level to be proactive and to be responsible for their respective areas with this unusual business. We are not only accountable for results but we are bond to sustain our response for a long run to create an AIDS Free generation.
  2. Cambodia is moving from dependency to resilience. We have been from relying almost completely on external support to making use of the national budget contributing to AIDS response. With highest level of policy decision making 3.7 Million USD has been earmarked for purchasing ARVs from 2015 to 2017 with expectation to contribute up to 20% of total budget for ARVs by 2020. A multi-sectoral workplan will be submitted for several Million USD to Ministry Economic and Finance for creating enabling environment, supporting country system at local level to cover the needs of those who are in the greatest needs, and strengthening AIDS response among mobile migrant population.
  3. Three days ago in closing the Heath Congress in Cambodia our Prime Minister strongly advices all health care professional to lift out financial barriers to improve a better access to health services to the poor who cannot afford to pay. This commitment sets a policy for universal access to health services by reducing stigma and discrimination to those who are underprivileged. With this people centered guiding principle for the new Health Strategic Plan, health professionals are hold accountable for their services provided to poor and rich patients coming to all level of health facilities in an equitable manner.
- With growing population movement in the region especially in GMS on the verge of ASEAN Economic Community, assuring rights to health for migrants could be one of the major concern in this 12<sup>th</sup> ICAAP. In this endeavor, I would be very pleased to learn from countries members how

we can come up with concrete actions with adequate funding to support inter-countries collaboration to support the rights in accessing health care services wherever they work and live.

- In closing this remark, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the organizer and the co-sponsor of the 12<sup>th</sup> ICAAP and more importantly to the Government of Bangladesh for allowing us to come in this special forum to learn from one another so that we can fast track our response to create an AIDS Free generation for our region.
- Thank You